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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 48

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KCGM987
MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

遮那王 義経

奥州編

沢田ひろふみ
SAWADA HIROFUMI

13

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

源義朝
- 女子
- 女子
- 義経（幼名 牛若丸）
- 円成（幼名 乙若丸）
- 全成（幼名 今若丸）
- 範頼
- 希義
- 義門
- 頼朝
- 朝長
- 義平

遮那王 義経

9784063709872
雑誌 41773-87
ISBN4-06-370987-6
C9979 ¥390E (0)
1929979003906
講談社
定価：本体390円(税別)

盛さんこと伊勢三郎能盛を臣下につけた義経は、吉次と約束した合流の地、白河の関を目指す。そこから先は奥州、平家の手も届かない別世界。その中心、平泉で待つのは、奥州十七万騎の王、藤原秀衡。

沢田ひろふみ作品
遮那王 —義経— 1〜13
山賊王 1〜7
以下続刊

2004年12月

KCGM987
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遮那王 義経 奥州編 ⑬

SAWADA HIROFUMI
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講談社

遮那王 義経

沢田ひろふみ

The Story So Far

Hyouta has decided he will live as Ushiwaka himself. Fujiwara Naganari, Ushiwaka's stepfather realized that Hyouta-as-Ushiwaka was under Kiyomori's surveillance and asked Kichiji the gold merchant to escort him to Hiraizumi.

To avoid Kiyomori's bandits looking for him, Hyouta changed his name to Yoshitsune and separated from the caravan with Mushashibo Benkei. Ise Saburo Yoshimori, known as the bandit leader Morri-san, recognized Yoshitsune's exceptional talents and skill and became the 'Vassal of Courage'.

The Story So Far, Continued

Before heading to the meeting with Kichiji's caravan at the Shirakawa gate, Yoshitsune's party visited Ushiwaka's brother, Minamoto no Yoritomo in Izu. After Yoshitsune saw through Yoritomo's pretense of being a fool, Yoritomo showed him the hereditary armor and sword of the Genji family and declared his readiness to defeat the Heike. Then Yoshitsune departed for Oshu to gather forces

Table of Contents

Chapter 48: A Spy's Sorrow. 5

Chapter 49: The Satou Brothers Appear! 55

Chapter 50: Fujiwara no Hidehira, the Ruler of Oshu. . 109

Chapter 51: The Meeting with Oshu's Ruler! 161

Chapter 48:
A Spy's Sorrow

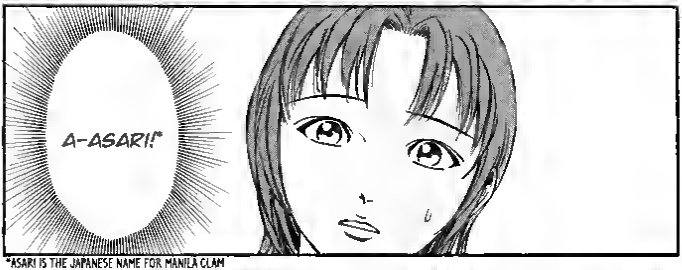
CRAP WE'RE SO CLOSE TO SHIRAKAWA,
BUT WE'LL NEVER CATCH KICHIJI
JUST LET HIM WAIT THERE.
HM? A CROWD
WHAT?
HMMM, KNOWING KICHIJI...
I HOPE HE'S STILL WAITING AFTER SO MANY DAYS...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
EH?
OH, THEY SAY THIS ROAD IS CLOSED.
EEH? WHY'S THAT?!

THERE'S BEEN A LAND-SLIDE...
BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY RAIN THREE DAYS AGO.
MAYBE WE CAN PASS TOMORROW.
NO WAY!
WE'RE REALLY IN A HURRY...
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA, USING ANOTHER ROAD WILL TAKE MORE TIME.
THERE ARE THREE INNS NEARBY, WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT THERE
HM
WELL, THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE WE'LL STAY OVER-NIGHT...

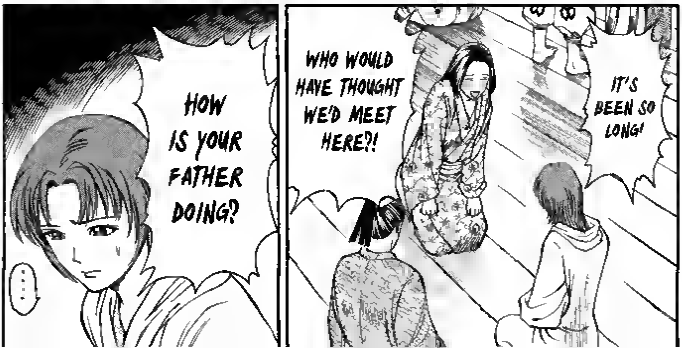
AHHH- THE ROAD'S BEEN BLOCKED FOR THREE DAYS,
SO IT'S CROWDED WITH GUESTS...
HM?
KASUMI!

Damn
I never thought we'd choose the same inn
SO YOU'RE HEADING TOWARDS SHIRAKAWA GATE,
AND GOT STUCK HERE TOO, KASUMI?
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
KASUMI, LET ME INTRODUCE MORI-SAN, MY VASSAL
AH, MORI-SAN, YOU HAVEN'T MET BEFORE. THIS IS KASUMI WHO WAS TRAVELING TO HIRAIZUMI WITH US
YOU WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ME. HOW RUDE!
FORGET SMILING,
ヒロ
EH?
I'M MORI
NICE TO MEET YOU
NICE TO MEET YOU

You reek like a stink bug.
*YES, カメ虫 (カメムシ) = THE STINK BUG
KASUMI,
MORI-SAN, SHE'S JUST KIDDING!
W-WHAT WAS THAT!?
A stink bug?
KASUMI ?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
W-WHAT... THAT...
I'M STILL ALIVE BECAUSE YOU HELPED ME. THANK YOU.



*ASARI IS THE JAPANESE NAME FOR MANILA CLAM



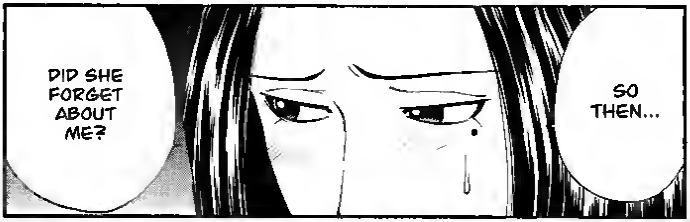
KASU-MI?
AH?
STEP
DID I GET THE WRONG PERSON?
……?
YOU KNOW HER?
EH?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A HANDSOME MAN♡
WHAT?
じぃ〜っ

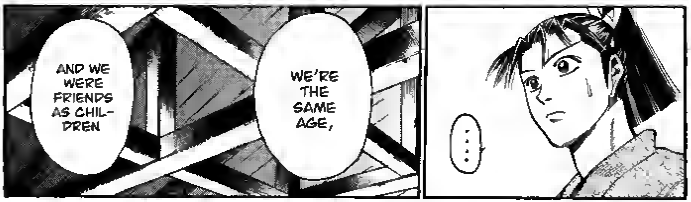
I'M ASARI. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I-I'M YOSHI-TSUNE...
YOU STINK OF SAKE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME FOR A DRINK, YOSHI-TSUNE?
I HAVE A PRIVATE ROOM, AFTER ALL.
DON'T WORRY, LET ME TREAT YOU.
Or all this money...
will certainly go to waste...
that Yes...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? BAD BOY!
YOU MUST BE PUN-ISHED!
BIP!
BIP!
Y-YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA?
LET HIM BE. DON'T MAKE A FUSS.
A stink bug?

SORRY
FOR DRAGGING YOU ALONG
I WANT TO DRINK TODAY,
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE
WHOA!
THESE DISHES ARE LAVISH!
AT LEAST HAVE SOME FOOD WITH ME, OKAY?
S-SURE...
KASUMI?
SHE'S CHANGING INNS?
WHY?

Y-YEAH...
SO THAT REALLY WAS KASUMI?!

EH?
ASARI, YOU KNOW KASUMI THEN?
SO...


DID SHE FORGET ABOUT ME?
SO THEN...


AND WE WERE FRIENDS AS CHILDREN
WE'RE THE SAME AGE,
...

AND GREW UP ALONG A RIVER AS AN ACROBAT!?
KASUMI'S JUST LIKE ME...
KASUMI AND HER FATHER MADE A LIVING AS ACROBATS
WE GREW UP NEAR THE SAME RIVERSIDE

THEY MANAGED A LIVING, DAY BY DAY, AND THEN WHEN SHE TURNED TEN...
HERE'S KASUMI !!

パチ
パチ
パチ
ONLY A LITTLE TODAY...
WE MUST BE PATIENT.
FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, RAISE HER....
I HAVE A JOB FOR YOUR DAUGHTER.
EH?
ジャラ

TO BE ABLE TO
INFILTRATE A NOBLE'S HOUSE.
YOU.. YOU WANT KASUMI TO STEAL!?
I WILL PAY YOUR LIVING EXPENSES FOR HALF A YEAR.
AND IF SHE SUCCEEDS, I WILL PAY HER...
MORE MONEY THAN YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN YOUR LIFE
So much money...
GULP
O-OKAY!
I ACCEPT!!
F-FATHER ?

FATHER, YOU...
WANT ME TO STEAL?
LOOK OVER THERE.
KASUMI, STREET PERFORMERS AREN'T GUARANTEED A LIVING LIKE US
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE BECOME ONE OF THOSE FIGURES,
LYING ALL AROUND THE CAPITAL...

YOU MUSTN'T LET IT SLIP AWAY, YOU KNOW?
OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THIS ONLY COME ONCE IN A LIFETIME.
UGH!
AS LONG AS FATHER IS HAPPY... FOR HIM...
GRAB
I DON'T WANT FATHER TO DIE...
THE TRAINING WILL BE HARD.
I'M READY!
I WILL BECOME A THIEF!!
I'LL DO IT, FATHER!

Kasumi had always gone home every day, but after that, she did not,
and when she returned, days later
KASUMI!!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! YOU'RE ALL BEAT UP...
A-Asam
I don't know what kind of training she went through
but from what I could see, it was very difficult
I'm Fine...

KASUMI,
YOU CALLED ME?
WHAT IS IT?
SIX MONTHS LATER
ASARI, LOOK! ISN'T IT COOL?!
WHOA! WHERE DID YOU GET SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DRESS?
I BOUGHT IT WITH MY PAY FROM WORK
I CAN MAKE A LOT OF MONEY...
JUST BY STEALING MAIL!

succeeding at her work filled her with a sense of accomplish-ment
She did not feel guilty about using her skills to steal, rather,
Kasumi ...
At that time, Kasumi was completely and utterly happy
SIX MONTHS LATER
After that I did not see Kasumi at the riverside for a long time
KASUMI?

ARE YOU BACK?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, WHAT'S UP?
I...
I...
Asami...
have killed someone...
DRIP
I was commanded...
EH?

I couldn't...
and...
at the riverside again
And I never saw Kasumi
...

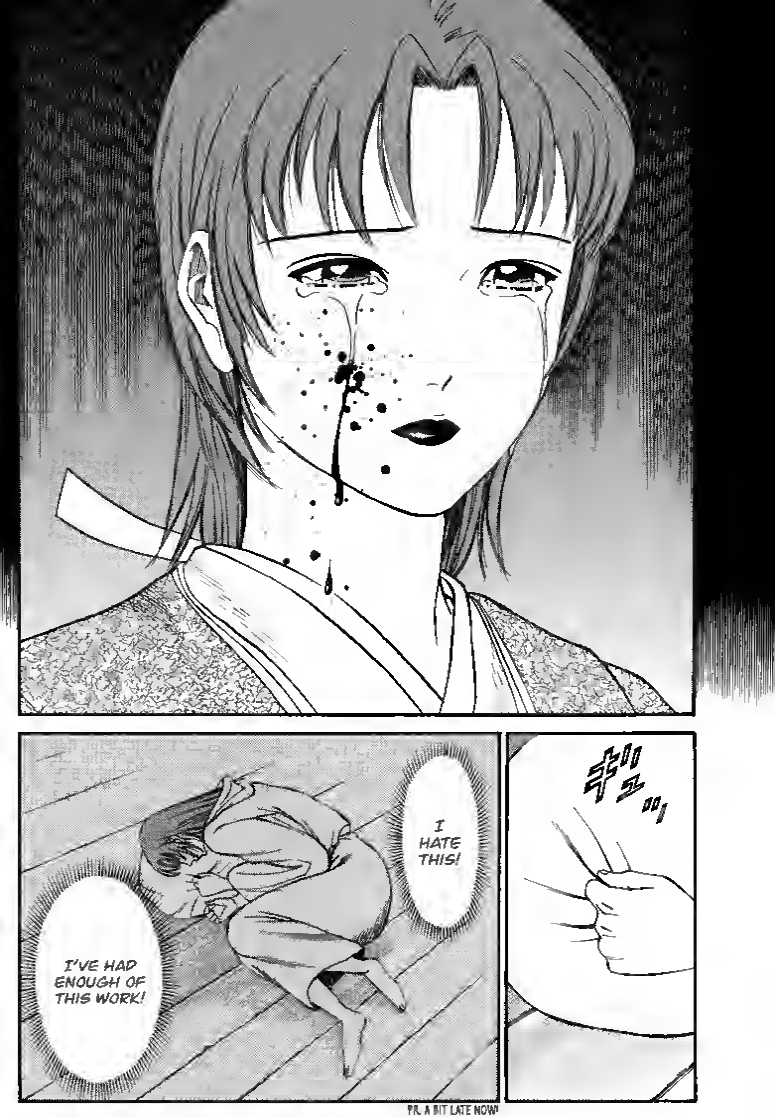
Then... that cold attitude is because as an assassin she had to kill her own feelings,
because she has to live with her own shattered heart...
So she was raised first as a thief and later an assassin...
and that skill is part of her assassin's training
UNDERSTAND HER NOW...
I THINK I CAN...
DON'T TELL ME KASUMI IS GOING TO OSHU TO...
SO SHH, DRINK UP!
MY MOUTH SLIPPED BECAUSE I'M WASTED. DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?
OOPS!
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.

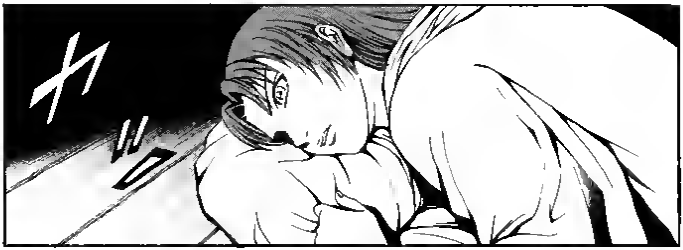
DO NOT FORGET, IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT YOU REMAIN ANONYMOUS IF YOU WANT TO BE FREE IN HIRAIZUMI!
BUT DO NOT LET ANYONE IDENTIFY YOU I CANNOT BRING A SPY TO HIDEHIRA-SAMA
USE THOSE REMARKABLE SKILLS OF YOURS TO FOLLOW YOSHITSUNE,
to do that work again
then I will be forced...
If Asari spoke with Yoshitsune's group, they might know about me.
I want to turn my life around but if they find out

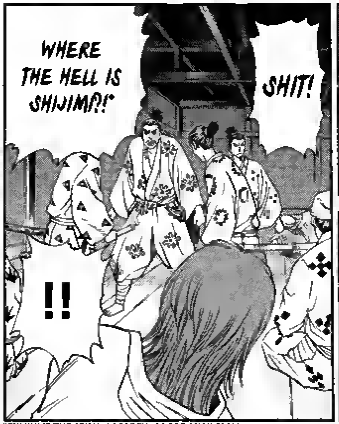
THIS TIME, YOU WILL INFILTRATE A NOBLE'S HOUSE AS A SERVANT,
AND SLOWLY WEAKEN HIS BODY WITH POISON UNTIL HE DIES.
GOSH
GOSH
YOUR MEAL IS HERE
Oh, Kazuha.
Thank you...

I COULD NEVER THINK SUCH A GUARDIAN LOATHSOME
MICHISHIGERU-SAMA, WHEN YOU WERE HEALTHY, YOU GRACIOUSLY PROTECTED ME FROM THE OTHER MAIDS' HARASS-MENT.
Don't you find the ap-pearance of this sickness loathsome?
Everyone thinks I am disgusting and stays away, but you are still here.
UGH!
I'm truly grateful.
You're the only one who speaks to me so kindly
URGHK!
AAAAAAAGH!

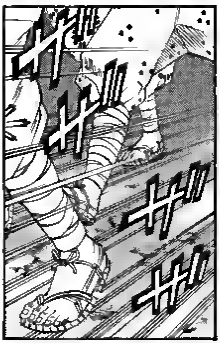
Ka-
Kazuha...
My end...
is here...
F-for
every-
thing,
thank
you...
Thank
...
Y...
ou...
KAK!

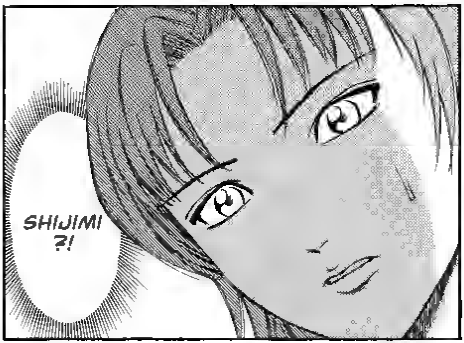

I HATE THIS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS WORK!
PR. A BIT LATE NOW!

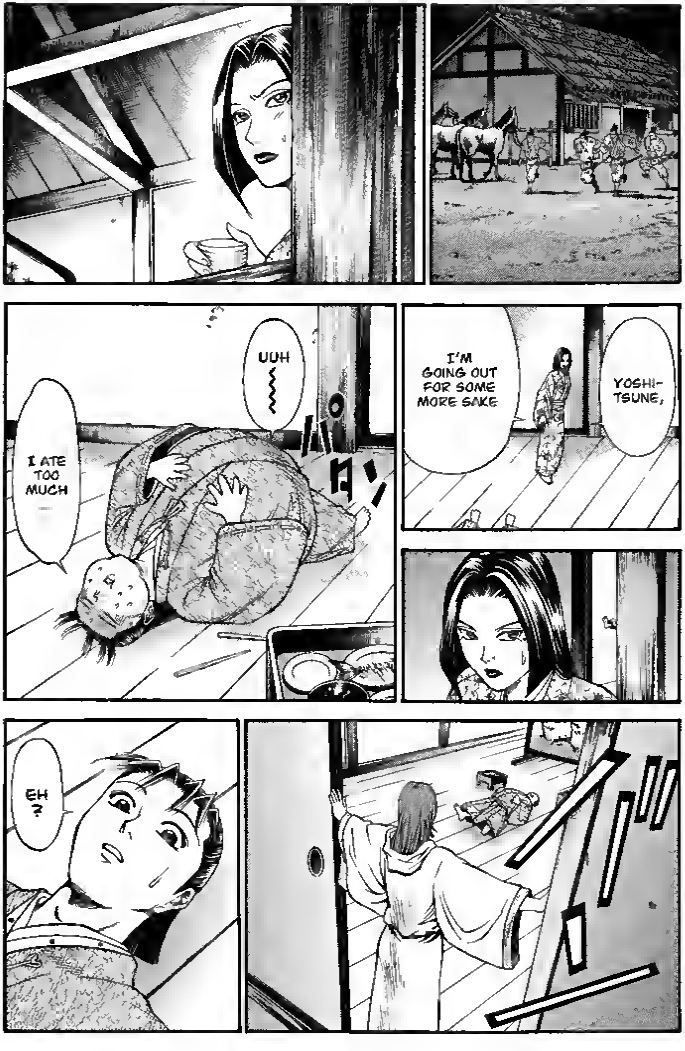




*SHIJIMI IS THE ASIAN / GOLDEN / GOOD LUCK CLAM

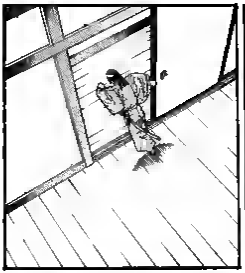


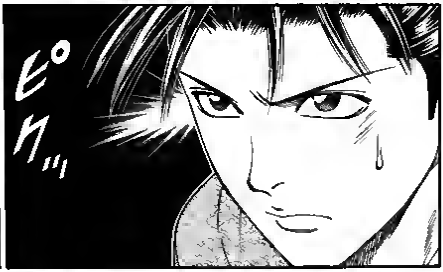



YOSHI-TSUNE,
I'M GOING OUT FOR SOME MORE SAKE
UUH
I ATE TOO MUCH
EH?

SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO FIND MORE SAKE.
Kasumi

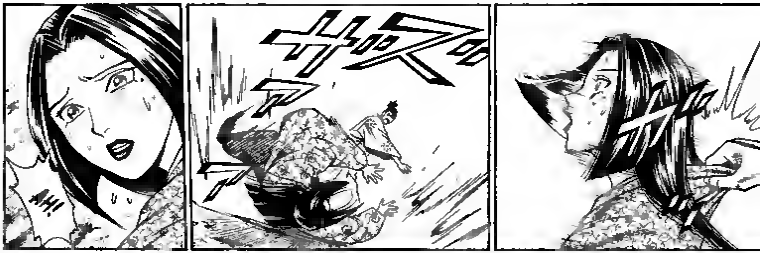
WHERE IS ASARI?




ピク"

EEEK!

SHI-
JIMI!
STOP!
EEEEEE!


AH!

HERE, TAKE IT!
THIS IS THE GOLD I STOLE! FORGIVE ME!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING OFF EASY
YOU REALLY THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH IT, SHIJIMI?

DIE!
SNATCH
OF COURSE THE MONEY MUST BE RETURNED, BUT THAT ISN'T ENOUGH.
KILL HER.
EEEK!
WHO'S THERE?
WHO ...
YAGH ...

I WON'T LET YOU KILL MY FRIEND
I DON'T CARE IF THAT BITCH IS YOUR FRIEND,
SHE SEDUCED THE BOSS AND RAN OFF WITH OUR GAMBLING PARLOR'S GOLD
WE CAN'T JUST LET HER WALK AWAY
ASARI, YOU'VE CHANGED.
YOU WERE SUCH AN UPRIGHT CHILD

KASUMI!
BUT...
I...
Crap!!
If I use my skills my profession will be revealed...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
Asari... My only friend...
But...
BUT... A WOMAN AGAINST FOUR MEN?!
I CAN HANDLE IT!
OR YOU MIGHT GET HURT.
STAY BACK!!
EH?

AND LEAVE, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE.
YOU HAVE YOUR MONEY. FORGIVE HER,
KILL THEM ALL!!
WHAT A JOKE!
HI!!
!!

I WARNED YOU
KASUMI!!

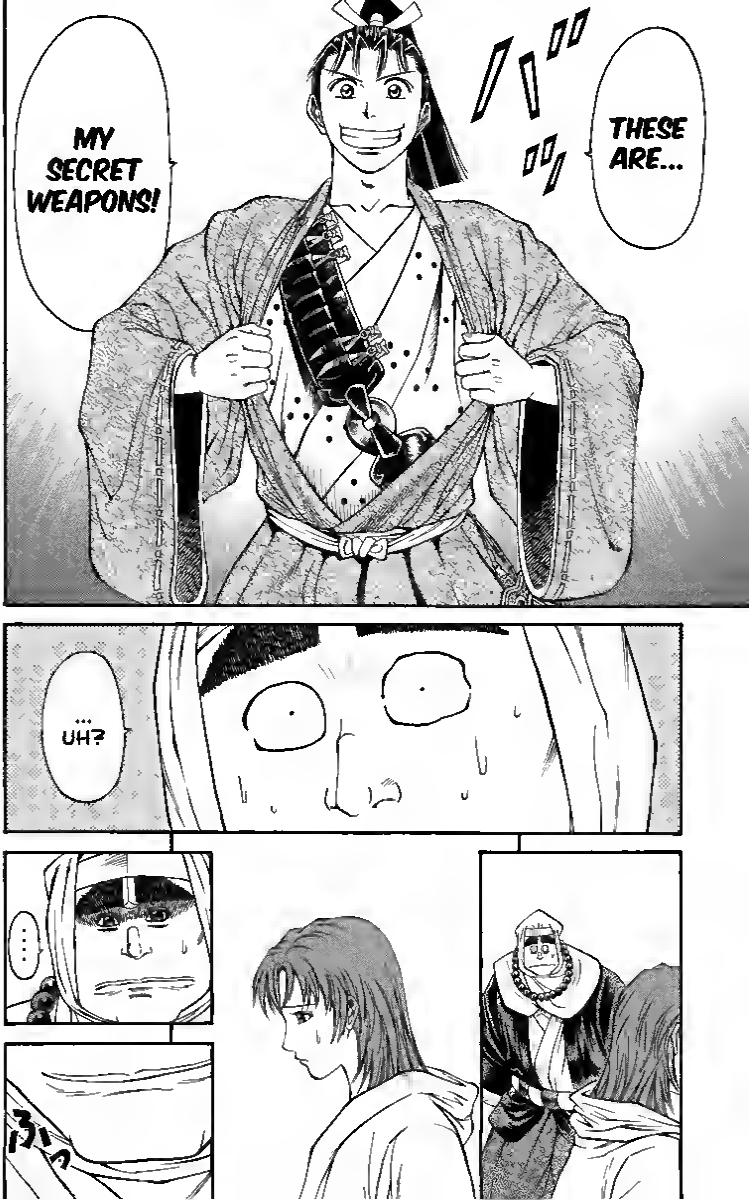
W-WHAT HAPPENED?
FOUR KILLS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...
KASUMI'S TECHNIQUE IS TRULY AMAZING

Asari, you're not the only one to change.
I have changed even more.
I have been living with my hands...
soaked in the blood of others.
Now that he's seen this...
KASUMI, ARE YOU OKAY?
I thought I could start over,
but it's futile...

...
IT'S ALL OVER.
SO I CAN'T EVEN START OVER IN OSHU...
WITH A CLEAN SLATE.
!!
SO KASUMI ...
IS GOING TO OSHU FOR A FRESH START!
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA!
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA!
WHERE ARE YOU?

YOSHITSUNE-SAMAA!
YOSHITSUNEEE!
FIGURES WE'D FIND YOU SOMEWHERE LIKE THIS.
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA
THERE HE IS!
AH!
THEY'RE DEAD!
IT IT'S THEM!
HM?
WE SAW SOME SUSPICIOUS MEN...

AH?!
HOW UNUSUAL
WHAT WEAPON IS THIS?
?
THAT TIME...
はっはっはっはっ
I HAD TO DO IT!!
there were two girls in danger!
LOOK!
EH?

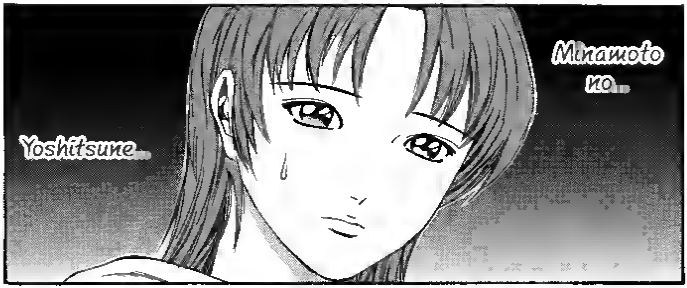

MY SECRET WEAPONS!
THESE ARE...
...UH?

AMAZING, YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA!
YOU HAVE MASTERED SO MANY SKILLS!
WAIT...
YOU HAD THESE?
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, ASAI FAINTED AND NEEDS TO BE CARRIED BACK TO THE INN.
YES!

WHY DID Y-
SHH!!
...
DON'T TELL ANY-ONE WHAT HAPPENED!
IF WORD GETS AROUND...
THAT A WOMAN DEFEATED FOUR MEN WHILE I STOOD BY AND DID NOTHING,
I'LL NEVER LIVE IT DOWN!
I DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING
DON'T TELL KICHIJI EITHER!
I'VE FOR-GOTTEN ALL OF IT!

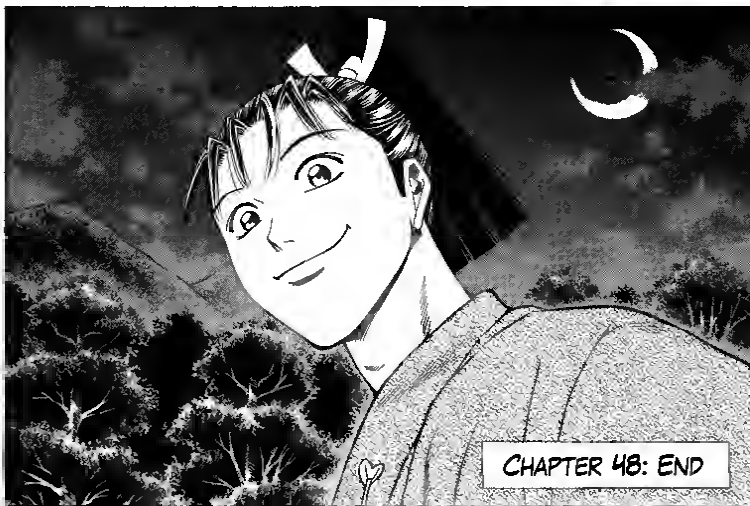
SO ASARI TOLD YOU EVERY-THING?
ASARI? WHO'S THAT?
THEN,
HERE WE GO
AH.
?

NOW YOU HAVE A CLEAN SLATE.
YOU DON'T NEED THAT ANYMORE.
HE DID IT ALL...
SO I CAN START MY LIFE ANEW IN HIRAIZU-MI.
HE EVEN LIED TO HIS TWO TRUST-WORTHY VASSALS
JUST TO HIDE MY IDENTITY...



*PR. HE LITERALLY SAYS "THE END OF THE WORLD" BUT IT'S JUST THE NORTHERN END OF JAPAN.

HMPH...


CHAPTER 48: END

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 49

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STUPID, YAH!
STUPID, YAH!
WELL, I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE CAPTURED KUON AND WERE KEEPING HIM OUTSIDE
I COULDN'T KEEP HIM INSIDE THE INN SO...
STILL AS FOUL-MOUTHED AS EVER, I SEE...
YOU'D BETTER NOT PICK ON HIM!
ALL RIGHT.

Chapter 49
THE SHIRA-KAWA GATE IS CLOSE. LET'S GO!
Meeting the Sato Brothers!

AH.
WHERE COULD IT BE?
HMM... ACCORDING TO THE INNKEEPER IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE AROUND HERE...
SO THAT'S THE SHIRAKAWA GATE!
THERE IT IS!

THE ENTRANCE TO OSHU.
PAST THIS POINT, A DIFFERENT WORLD AWAITS... ONE EVEN THE HEIKE CAN'T REACH.
ゴクリ
BUT WAIT... I STILL DON'T SEE KICHIJI HERE
COULD HE HAVE GONE AHEAD?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? EVEN IF WE GET INTO OSHU,
WE STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HIRAIZUMI IS...
COULDN'T HE JUST BE WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIRAKAWA GATE?
RIGHT
I GUESS SO...
WELL, LET'S TRY GETTING THROUGH FIRST.

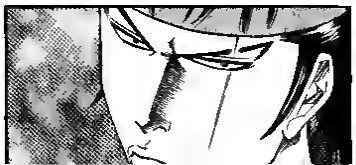
HELLO.
H-
HALT!!
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHY DO YOU WISH TO ENTER OSHU?!
W-WELL, I THINK A GUY CALLED KICHIJI PASSED THROUGH HERE. WE'RE HIS CREW, YOU SEE
DOESN'T MATTER!
EH.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SAY IT'S TO ASK FOR OSHU NO FUJI-WARA'S SUPPORT TO TAKE DOWN THE HEIKE. SO... UMM...
WHY DO I WISH TO...

OH, COME ON!
COME BACK WITH SOMEONE TO VOUCH FOR YOU!
I CANNOT ALLOW THOSE WITH NO VALIDATION TO PASS!
WOULD BE BEYOND ABSURD!
TO LET A SUSPICIOUS LOOKING GROUP LIKE YOU THROUGH WITHOUT PROPER ENDORSEMENT...
NO!
CAN'T YOU JUST LET US IN?!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO DO ANYTHING CRIMINAL,
Hmm
SHOULD WE CAUSE A RUCKUS?
"A SUSPICIOUS LOOKING GROUP"?
EH?
SO YOU'RE FINALLY HERE.
MORI-SAN, DON'T MAKE THIS MORE COMPLICATED
HE ISN'T WRONG

K-
KICHIJI!!

IF YOU WERE HERE THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE COME OUT SOONER!
WAIT... WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
YOU GUYS TOOK SO LONG THAT I SENT THEM AHEAD

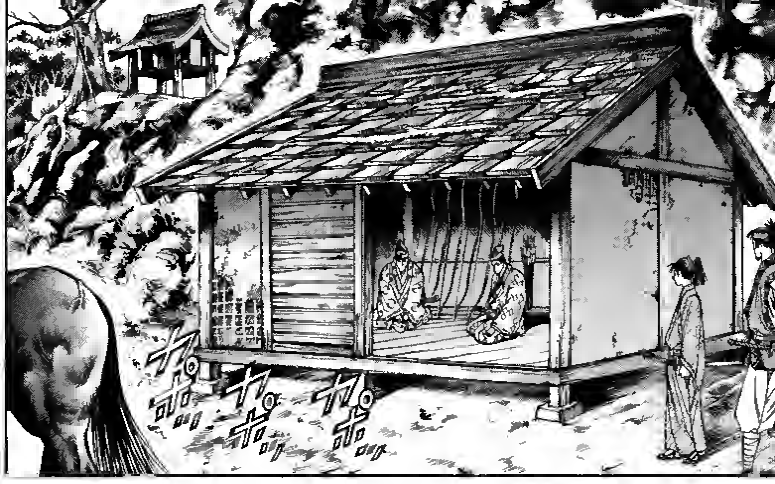
WHAT?
HERE'S A STRAY I HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE



I DON'T KNOW..
WHO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE, EITHER!
GRRR
TH-THIS IS MORI-SAN! HE BECAME MY VASSAL.
AND THIS IS KICHIJI, HE'LL GET US TO HI-RAIZUMI.
SO... AN EX-BANDIT AS A VASSAL.
HOW FITTING...
꼬르륵

WHAT-EVER
LET'S GET MOVING
WE HAVE RETURNED FROM THE CAPITAL UNDER HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S ORDERS
I AM KICHIJI AND THIS IS MY CREW
VERY WELL

WE'RE FINALLY HEADING INTO OSHU!!

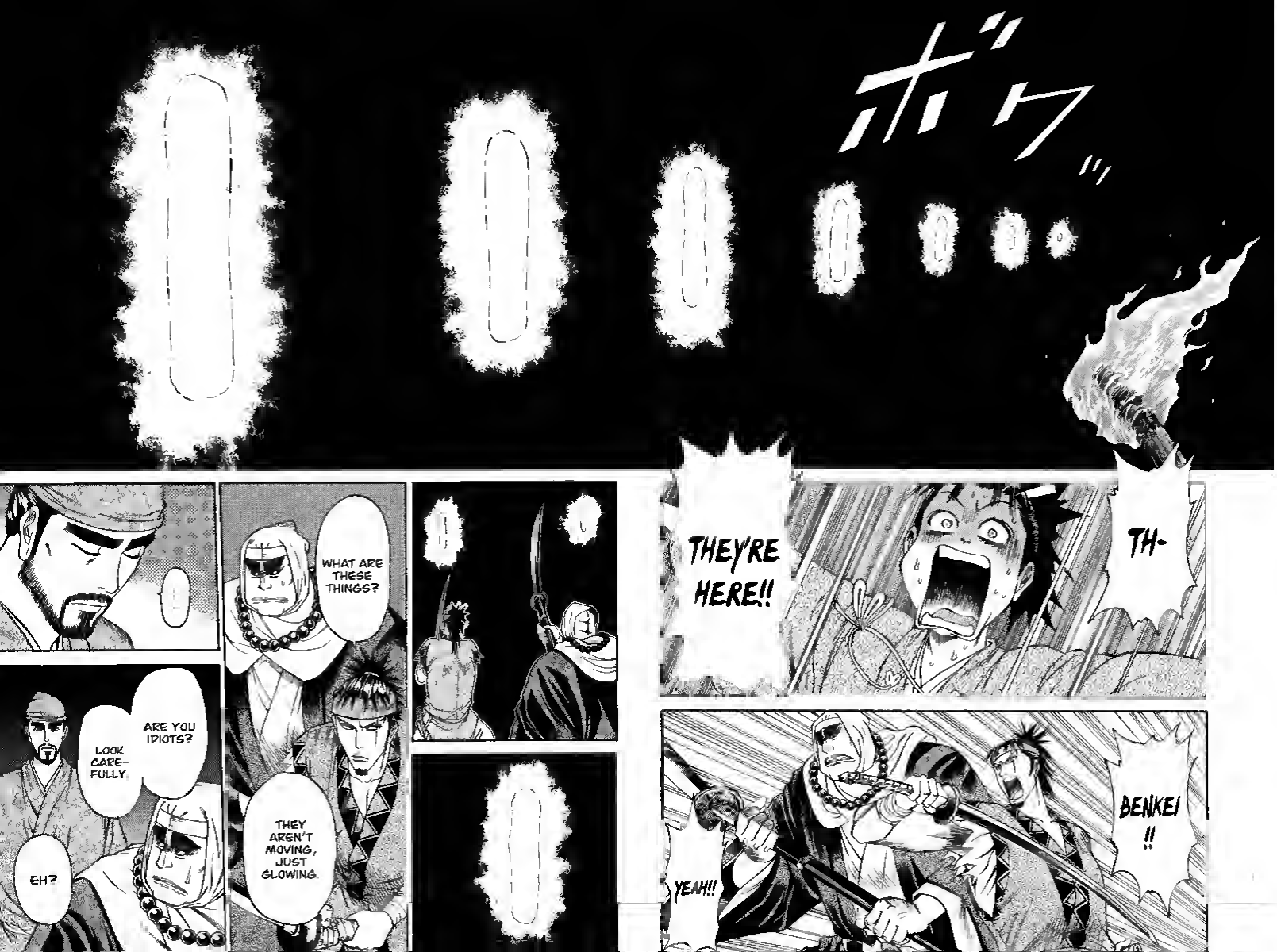


SO THIS IS OSHU...
IT'S PRETTY DULL, HUH?
I GUESS THIS IS ALL WE CAN EXPECT FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE.
M-MORI-SAN,
SHH!

...
IS THERE REALLY AN ARMY WITH TEN THOUSAND CAVALRY IN THIS UNDEVELOPED LAND?
SEEMS LIKE YOU'D BE MORE LIKELY TO MEET DEMONS OR GHOSTS...

FORGET ABOUT THAT, ARE WE CLOSE TO AN INN YET?
IT FEELS LIKE MONSTERS COULD JUMP OUT AT ANY MOMENT AND IT'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS ...

*KE CAN BE READ AS EITHER 'KYO' OR 'TSUNE'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WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
ARE YOU IDIOTS?
LOOK CAREFULLY.
EH?
THEY AREN'T MOVING, JUST GLOWING.
TH-
THEY'RE HERE!!
BENKEI !!
YEAH!!

W-WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S GOLDEN ...
THERE'S A HATCH.
THERE'S A BUDDHA DRAWING INSIDE IT!!
WOW!! A-AMAZING!

IT'S A GOLDEN RELIQUARY.*
THERE'S ONE EVERY CHO ON THE OKUDO* ROAD FROM HERE IN SHIRAKAWA TO SOTOGAHAMA.
WELL, THERE IS GOLD IN OSHU.
S-SOTOGA-HAMA?
THESE GOLDEN RELIQUARIES GO ALL THE WAY TO THE NORTHERN-MOST TIP OF JAPAN?
...
THE MORE I KNOW, THE LESS I UNDER-STAND.
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS HIRAI-ZUMI?
Amazing!
A country mining its own gold huh.
※ In the present, this road connects Shirakawa of the Fukushima prefecture with Sotogahama of Aomori Prefecture. A chō is roughly 109m.
*THE UMBRELLA RELIQUARIES WERE PROBABLY SMALL ROOFED PLACARDS (WITH THE BUDDHA'S IMAGE PAINTED IN GOLD) THAT WERE SET ON POSTS ALONG THE ROAD TO CALM ANGRY SPIRITS FROM THE NORTHERN WARS. NONE EXIST TODAY AND THERE IS NO MENTION OF LIGHTING THEM AT NIGHT

TAIRA RESIDENCE
SO, HAS USHIWAKA BEEN FOUND YET?
WE HAVE TRIED USING BANDITS, BUT IT SEEMS...
HE HAS ALLIED HIMSELF WITH SOME OF THEM AND THEY ARE UNWILLING TO GIVE US ANY ANSWERS.
SIR! WE ARE USING ALL MEANS POSSIBLE-
BUT HIS WHERE-ABOUTS...

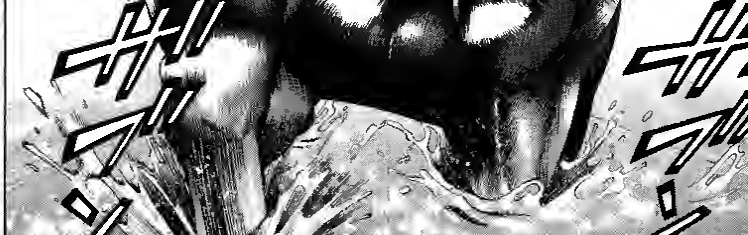
PERHAPS HE'S GONE ...
TO OSHU.
EVEN WE CANNOT INTERFERE WITH ANY-THING THAT HAPPENS IN OSHU.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW HIDEHIRA WILL DEAL WITH USHI-WAKA
HOWEVER, SHOULD HE LEND HIM A HAND...
M-
My sincerest apologies sir.
IT MAY BECOME PROBLEMATIC.
.....

LATER... A FEW DAYS
ACHOO!!
UGH...
DID WE REALLY HAVE TO LEAVE BEFORE DAWN?
OLD PEOPLE AND THEIR EARLY MORNINGS
WE HAVE TO REACH HIRAIZUMI BY MIDDAY
WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS

I know I haven't seen any monsters yet,
So we'll finally be arriving in Hiraizumi huh
...
what other-worldly beings live in these northern lands!!
but I am going to see with my own eyes
HM?
CAW
CAW
CAW

A... A GIANT ...
IS LOOKING THIS WAY!
EEEEEK!!
WHAT IS IT?!
ドドドドド

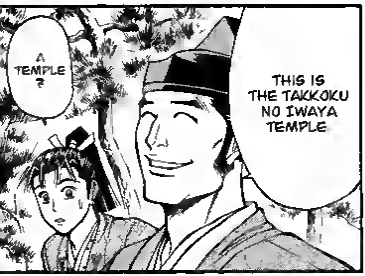
YO... YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA!!
IT'S A SHALLOW RIVER, HE'S FINE
HAH!
AHH!
WHAT'S HE PLAYIN' AT?
GAH!
AHH!
HAH!
ARE YOU TELLING ME....
HE CAN'T SWIM?
WHAT'S THIS?!



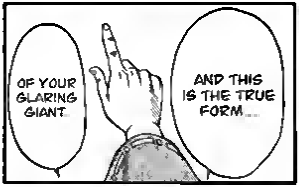
AHH
HAA
HAA

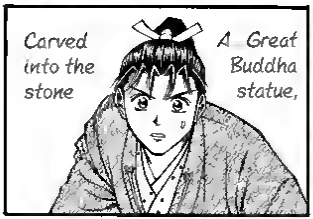
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
!!
T-THESE TWO!!
パチ
パチ
パチ
ACHOO!!
SERIOUSLY, I WAS ABOUT TO DIE, YOU KNOW?
AND YOU GUYS DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO SAVE ME! YOU'RE COLDER THAN THE WATER IN THAT RIVER!!
I-I'm sorry
TO THINK YOU COULDN'T SWIM
PFFT!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
BUT WHY DID YOU FALL INTO THE RIVER?
NO, NO...
IN ANY CASE, YOUR SAFETY IS MOST IMPORTANT.
AH...
AND I PANICKED !!
A... A GIANT WAS GLARING AT ME FROM THE SHADOWS OF THOSE TREES!!
HUH?
OH!
RIGHT!!
TRUE FORM?
PLEASE STEP TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THESE TREES.
I GUESS I SHOULD SHOW YOU ITS TRUE FORM.


A TEMPLE?
THIS IS THE TAKKOKU NO IWAYA TEMPLE

W... WHAT THE?!
THERE'S A MANSION COMING OUT OF THE ROCKS!


AND THIS IS THE TRUE FORM...
OF YOUR GLARING GIANT


Carved into the stone
A Great Buddha statue,

It's the first time I've seen or heard of anything like this!
The temple... and this statue...

IT'S BIZARRE ...

WELCOME TO OSHU!

JUDGING BY THAT REACTION, IT SEEMS THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN OSHU.

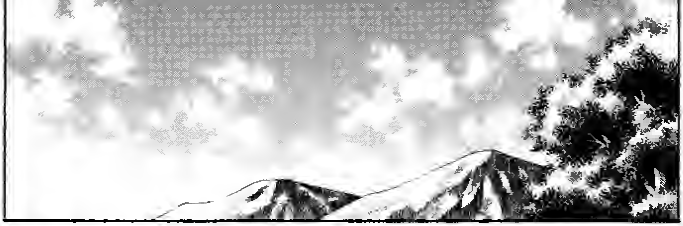
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

NOW, WE SHALL EXCUSE OUR-SELVES.
AH.

R... RIGHT.

C'MON, AT LEAST LET ME DRY MY CLOTHES!
WELL, LET'S NOT LOSE ANY MORE TIME AND PRESS ON TO HI-RAIZUMI

ALTHOUGH THIS PLACE IS BIZARRE,
THOSE TWO WERE FRIENDLY ENOUGH



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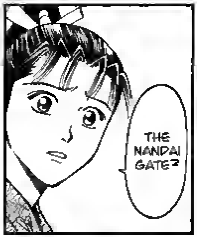
WE'LL BE ENTERING HIRAIZUMI SOON.
AH



*LITERALLY, "THE GREAT SOUTH GATE"

三蔵寺

I NEVER IMAGINED THERE COULD BE SUCH A GRAND TEMPLE GATE HERE!!
IT... IT'S HUGE!! EVEN BIGGER THAN THE MAIN GATE OF KURAMA TEMPLE!!

THEY PROBABLY JUST MADE THIS GATE ALL GAUDY BECAUSE IT'S AT THE ENTRANCE TO HIRAIZUMI.
THE INSIDE IS PROBABLY SOME POOR OLD RURAL TEMPLE. LET'S GET GOING ALREADY.
JUDGING BY THE GATE, COULD THE INSIDE OF MOTSUJI TEMPLE...
BE JUST AS GREAT?
毛越寺
HMPH.
THIS CITY IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE,
THERE'S PROBABLY MORE DEER AND BOAR THAN-
ビクッ
!!
W-WHAT THE HECK?!
HM ?
WHOA!!

W-WHAT'S WITH THIS ROAD?!
IT'S ALMOST FIFTEEN KEN WIDE!
*ROUGHLY 27M / 89 FEET
AND IT'S SURROUNDED BY GORGEOUS MANSIONS-
AND GOLDEN HOUSES!
T-THOSE PEOPLE EVEN LOOK LIKE FOREIGNERS!

S-SO MANY OXCARTS!
ARE THEY HAVING A FESTIVAL?
THESE ARE JUST THE CARTS OF TEMPLE VISITORS.
THERE'S NOTHING WEIRD ABOUT PARKING OX-CARTS IN THE PARKING AREA.

THIS...
IS HIRAIZUMI.
.....
A- AMAZING...
THIS ISN'T SOME PRIMITIVE PLACE,
THIS IS A CITY RIVAL- ING THE CAPITAL .
THE CAPITAL OF THE NORTH!!

KICHIJI DID SAY THEY MINE GOLD...
AND THEY'RE ALL GOLDEN!
BUT MAN, THERE'S A LOT OF MONKS AND TEMPLES AROUND HERE,
HOW MUCH GOLD DO THEY HAVE?
EVEN SO, THIS MUCH?
WHAT'S THAT?
HM?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
THIS IS BEYOND INSOLENCE!!
HOW DARE YOU GET YOUR SPIT ON HIM!
AND NOW THEY'RE BLAMING IT ON THOSE TWO.
THE GROUP OF SAMURAI OVER THERE CLAIM THEY GOT SNEEZED ON,

I AM EXTREMELY SORRY...
IT WAS NOT DONE ON PURPOSE, PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON US.
TH...THOSE TWO ARE...
THE GUYS FROM THIS MORNING!
ALL RIGHT! THIS TIME I'LL HELP THEM!
WAIT.
THOSE TWO WILL BE FINE, SIT BACK AND WATCH.
EH?
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE ADDRESSING?
THIS IS THE SON OF ECHIZEN KUROIWA-SAMA,
TERUSHIGE-SAMA! HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW?!

HEH
WHEN I WATCH A HICK SAMURAI LIKE YOU SMILING AND GROVELING
I I apologize
Yes
IT SEEMS
I MUST TEACH THIS COUNTRY BUMPKIN SOME MANNERS
NO, NO ..
I BEG OF YOU, PLEASE HAVE MERCY!
THAT ONE OVER THERE-
STILL HASN'T APOLOGIZED!
HUH?!

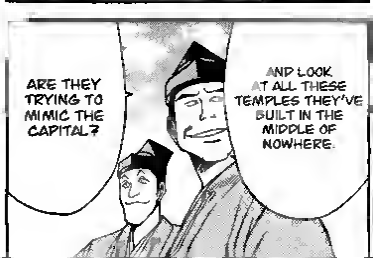
SAY SOMETHING, WON'T YOU?
YOUR PARTNER IS ALSO GUILTY.
W-WELL, I WAS THE ONE WHO SNEEZED
YOU...
BLACK BARBARIAN!!*
*T/N: HE'S PROBABLY USING THIS TERM TO REFER TO HIM AS AN AINU WHO ARE NATIVES OF HOKKAIDO KNOWN TO HAVE DARKER SKIN
BEAT HIM!
BEAT THAT BASTARD UP!
THAT GUY, MAKING FUN OF THEM AND CALLING THEM COUNTRY BUMPKINS AND BARBARIANS...
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HECK HE IS, BUT HE GETS ON MY NERVES!!
ニヤ
ニヤ

I APOLOGIZE.

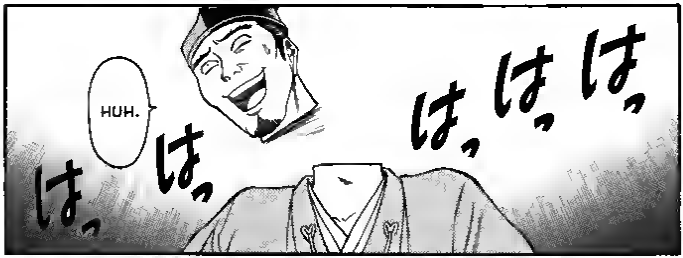
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING!?
WHAAAAT?!

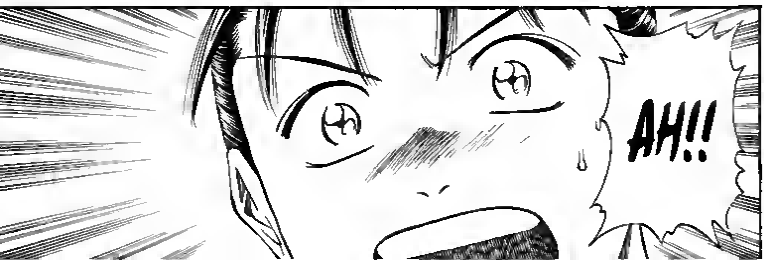
THE SAMURAI OF OSHU ARE SO DOCILE, IT'S NO SURPRISE THEY DON'T WAGE WARS.
I I see.

HAHAHAHA HAHAHA!!
SPINE-LESS, SO SPINE-LESS!


ARE THEY TRYING TO MIMIC THE CAPITAL?
AND LOOK AT ALL THESE TEMPLES THEY'VE BUILT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

*T/N: HE USES A DIFFERENT WORD HERE 'EZO' WHICH IS BEING USED AS ANOTHER DEROGATORY REFERENCE TO AINU OR NON JAPANESE IN THE NORTH





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BENKEI, STOP THEM!
YES, SIR!
B-
EEEEEEK!!

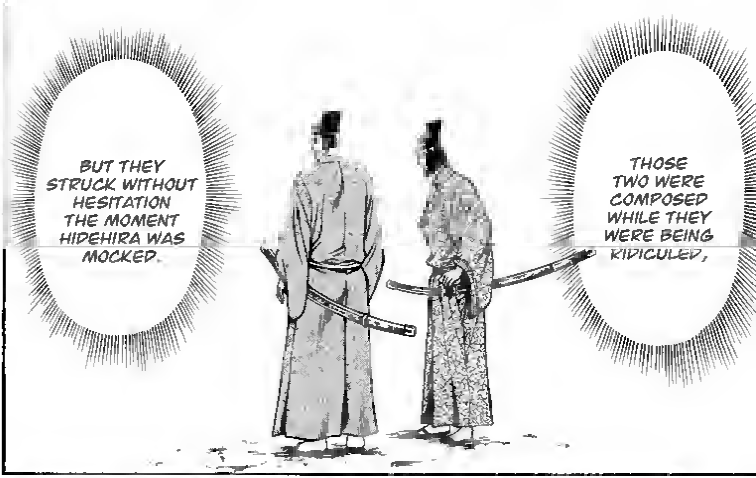
AH-
AHHHHH!
UGH!

ズキャッ
!!!
EEEEEK!!
HMPH!

I can barely hold him off!!
W-What power...
STOP!!

IT'S ENOUGH!!
FOUR PEOPLE ARE DEAD.
WAAAAH...
EEK!

PAT
What incredible skill
To think they cut four people down in an instant
Who are these guys ?
Wh


BUT THEY STRUCK WITHOUT HESITATION THE MOMENT HIDEHIRA WAS MOCKED.
THOSE TWO WERE COMPOSED WHILE THEY WERE BEING RIDICULED,

FOR THEIR MASTER, THOSE TWO DO NOT EVEN FEAR DEATH.
BUT IT WAS FOOLISH FOR THAT YOUNG MASTER TO NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THEM.
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD GO THIS FAR,

WHO SERVE HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
THEY ARE THE ONES...
WHO ARE THEY EXACTLY?

TSUGUNOBU-DONO,
AND TADANOBU-DONO,
THE SATO BROTHERS!!

It seems that not only the city but the people of Hiraizumi are mind boggling...
The Sato brothers...
I'm going to be staying huh?
So this is where...
THIS IS GOING TO GET INTERESTING!!
CHAPTER 49: END

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by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Chapter 50
Oshu's Supreme Ruler: Fujiwara no Hidehira

MAN, THERE ARE SOME CRAZY GUYS HERE
THAT THEY'D CUT SOMEONE DOWN JUST FOR BAD-MOUTHING THEIR LORD
YOU HARDLY SEE ANY DANGEROUS GUYS LIKE THAT IN THE MOUNTAINS EVEN.
RIGHT, BENKEI?
THAT IS HOW A RETAINER SHOULD CONDUCT HIMSELF
I SEE
THE SATOU BROTHERS
I GET THE FEELING THOSE BROTHERS WILL BE EXCITING!
SHANA-HAN!!
AH!

I'M SO JEALOUS; SO JEALOUS!!
YOU SURE ARE LATE. DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE OUT FOOLING WITH GIRLS AGAIN.
HAHA HAHA ...
DAKICHI-SAN!!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG! DID YOU JUST GET HERE?!
OH!
UGLY, YAH!! UGLY, YAH!!
OH NO! I FORGOT I HAVEN'T FINISHED CLEANING!!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO LET HIM OUT, PERHAPS TO TRY AND SELL HIM?
THERE YOU ARE!! WHAT'S WITH YOU, TRYING TO FLY OFF ON YOUR OWN!!
I'VE BEEN UNDER SUSPICION, AND KICHIJI EVEN TOLD ME TO PAY FOR YOU!
KU... KUON...

SHANA-HAN, IF YOU'RE ALL STAYING IN HIRAIZUMI, DROP BY SOMETIME.
WELL THEN, I'LL BE OFF!!
THAT GUY IS HELLA TALKATIVE WHO IS HE?
THAT'S DAKICHI-SAN,
HE'S AN EXPERT PICKPOCKET
NO WONDER HE'S MAKING ME SUSPICIOUS...
KASUMI.
THIS IS MY MANSION YOU WAIT HERE TOO
WE'LL DECIDE LATER WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

OKAY ...
...
SO, WHERE'S FUJIWARA NO MOTONARI'S HOME THAT WE'RE HEADING TO?
BYE THEN!
SEE YA KASUMI! AFTER YOU'VE SETTLED IN, PLEASE TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE!
LET'S HURRY!
IT'S JUST PAST THE KOMOROGAWA RIVER
THE KOMOROGAWA HMM...

GET YOUR SAKE HERE!!
HOW ABOUT SOME DRIED FISH?
WELCOME, WELCOME!
WHAT A BARGAIN! SO CHEA
Isn't this a bit too busy?
But still...
YEAH, TODAY'S THE 16TH AFTER ALL. IT'S THE MUIKA MARKET *
WOW, CHECK OUT THIS MARKET!!
WE'RE HERE.
EH?
IT'S EVEN BUSIER THAN THE MARKET IN THE CAPITAL.
*T/N: I THINK THIS IS THE NAME OF THE MARKET.

HAVING A MARKET SO CLOSE MUST BE FUN...
IT'S RIGHT BESIDE THE MUIKA MARKET-PLACE...
THIS IS MOTONARI-SAMA'S MANSION,
KORO-MOGAWA ESTATE.
WHERE I'LL BE LIVING FROM NOW ON...!!
SO THIS IS THE PLACE...
!!

WILL BE LOOKING AFTER ME?

EHHH... S-SOMEONE THAT IMPORTANT...

UGH.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

WHAT IS MOTONARI-SAMA LIKE?

HE IS ALSO THE FATHER OF THE WIFE OF OSHU'S RULER, HIDEHIRA-SAMA (HIS FATHER-IN-LAW.)

HE'S THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF MUTSU.*

MOTONARI-SAMA WAS BORN TO A FAMILY OF ADVISORS IN KYOTO.

*MUTSU IS APPARENTLY THE SAME AS OSHU. WE DON'T KNOW WHY THE AUTHOR USED A DIFFERENT NAME.

THE NOBLES' MANSIONS IN THE CAPITAL HAVE GOT NOTHING ON THIS PLACE!!

OOOH! THIS MANSION IS ENORMOUS!

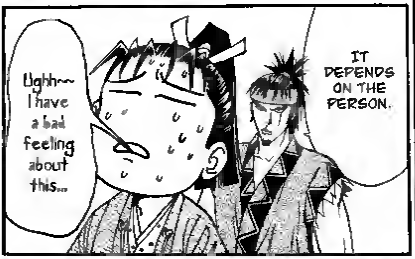
TO LIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS,

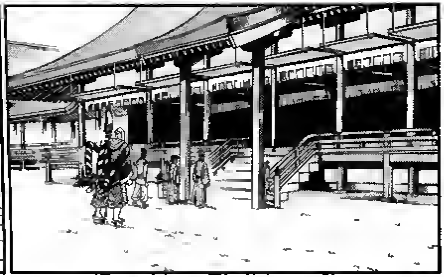
WHO IS FUJIWARA NO MOTONARI?

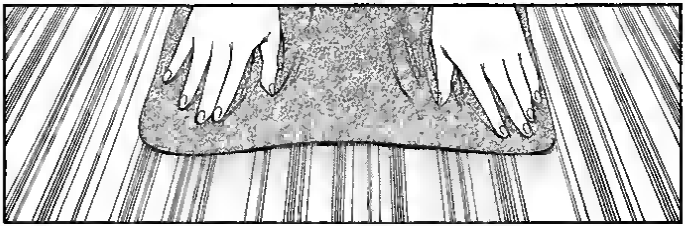
AND THIS IS KORO-MOGAWA ESTATE?

Y-YOU GUYS MIND YOUR MANNERS TOO SO HE DOESN'T HATE US.
O-OKAY.
THAT INCLUDES YOU, MORI-SAN.
WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO RUN ANYMORE.

WELL, PEOPLE IN HIGH POSITIONS TEND TO BE SNOBBY AND RESENTED.
WHAT'LL I DO IF HE'S MEAN TO ME THE WHOLE TIME?


IT DEPENDS ON THE PERSON.
Ughh~ I have a bad feeling about this...





KYAAAAAAAAAA...
ERK!
!!
HMM?

ドカッ

Y-YOSHITSUNE-SAMA!!
ズガァ

YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THE SIZE OF THE FLOOR WHEN YOU WANT TO CLEAN IT WITH A CLOTH,
OR JUST WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
AH, KICHIJI-SAMA,
YOU NEVER CHANGE, HUH
IT'S YOU AGAIN, ANZU
Ahhh that hurt

B-but...
If I don't look at my hands,
I'll worry if I cleaned the floor properly or not...
PHEW...
SHEESH, IT'S BEEN A YEAR AND YOU'RE STILL THE SAME.
I'm surprised you haven't been fired yet.
AAH!!
UGH!
URG!
It...
It hurts...

OH!
GUAAGH!
Noooooo~!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I-I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
She's cute!
♡
……

HOW DID YOUR BUTT FEEL, PRESSED AGAINST THE HEIR OF THE NOBLE GENJI FAMILY?
ANZU...
IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE, I'M FINE.
I-I'M REALLY SORRY!!
TO FORGIVE THIS LITTLE GIRL!!
PLEASE FIND IT IN YOUR HEART...
EHH?!
THE HEIR OF THE GENJI MOTO-NARI-SAMA MENTIONED...
SO PLEASE, RAISE YOUR HEAD!
I, I'M REALLY FINE,
WHAT CAN I DO TO ASK FOR YOUR FOR-GIVENESS...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
T-TO DO SUCH A THING TO A NOBLE PERSON LIKE YOU...
WHAM
WHAM

B-but...
HUH?
LOOK, YOUR FOREHEAD'S BLEEDING! WE NEED TO TREAT IT AT ONCE!!
FOR MAKING A NOBLE WORRY ABOUT ME,
PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGY!!
I SAID, CUT IT OUT!!

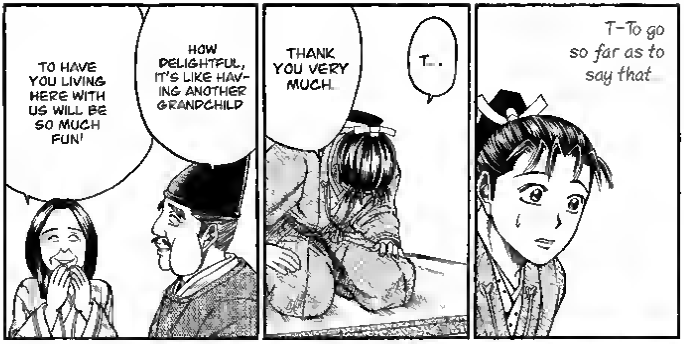
WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?
HER FACE IS REALLY CUTE,
ポリポリ
BUT SHE SEEMS A BIT... WEIRD...
EVEN IF I STAY HERE, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO AVOID HER.
Ohh Kichiji! You're here!!
AH!
AH, MOTONARI-SAMA
I HAVE RETURNED SAFELY.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU
THIS PERSON HERE IS USHIWAKA-MARU
YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO,
THIS IS MOTONARI-SAMA.

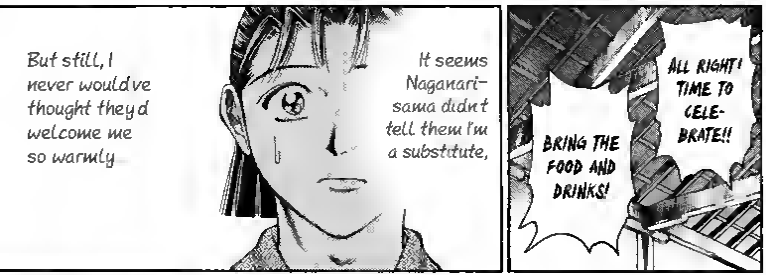
Please, come in!
Welcome, welcome!
FUJIWARA NO MOTONARI-SAMA, HUH...
...THIS PERSON HERE IS...
MY NAME IS USHIWAKA-MARU
I AM FROM THE CAPITAL

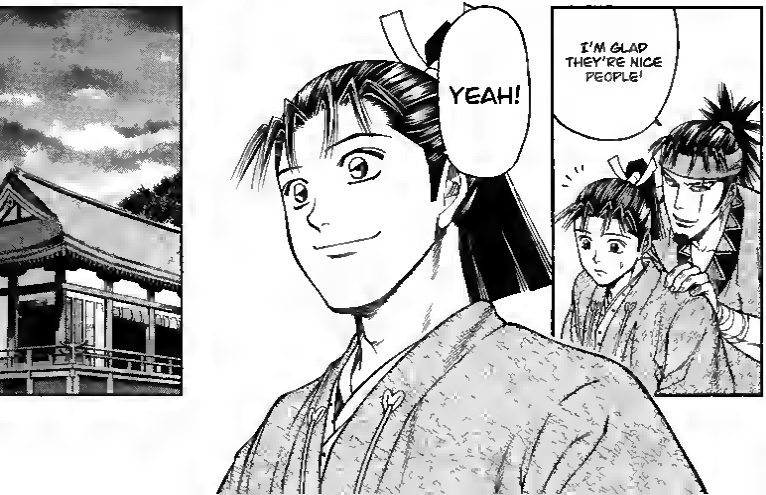
THANK YOU FOR MAKING SUCH A LONG JOURNEY.
I'M MOTONARI,
AND THIS IS MY WIFE.
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM NAGANARI-DONO.
NAGANARI-DONO IS MY FATHER'S COUSIN.
BUT I HEARD OF YOU EVEN BEFORE NAGANARI-DONO TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
BECAUSE OF THE HEISHI, YOU WEREN'T ALLOWED TO STEP OUT OF YOUR MANSION UNTIL THE AGE OF SEVEN,
AND AFTERWARDS, YOU WERE SEPARATED FROM YOUR PARENTS AND LEFT IN THE CARE OF A TEMPLE...
ガシッ

*MOTONARI USES HEISHI (平氏, TAIRA CLAN) INSTEAD OF HEIKE (平家, HOUSE OF TAIRA) BUT IT'S THE SAME THING

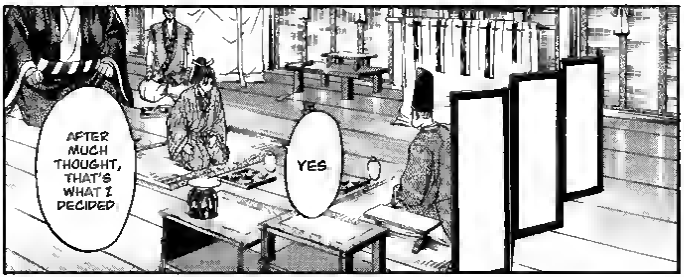
There, there...
It must have been tough.
.....
EVEN THE TAIRA'S POWER DOESN'T REACH OSHU,
SO YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT HERE.
I HOPE THAT HERE IN HIRAIZUMI YOU CAN PUT ALL THOSE YEARS YOU SUFFERED BEHIND YOU.
WE ARE...
YOUR COMRADES!


T-To go so far as to say that...
T...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HOW DELIGHTFUL, IT'S LIKE HAVING ANOTHER GRANDCHILD
TO HAVE YOU LIVING HERE WITH US WILL BE SO MUCH FUN!


It seems Naganari-sama didn't tell them I'm a substitute,
But still, I never would've thought they'd welcome me so warmly...
BRING THE FOOD AND DRINKS!
ALL RIGHT! TIME TO CELEBRATE!!


I'M GLAD THEY'RE NICE PEOPLE!
YEAH!

DID YOU NAME YOURSELF
MINAMOTO NO YOSHI-TSUNE?


YES
AFTER MUCH THOUGHT, THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED

HMMM
I SEE NAGANARI-DONO IS PROBABLY FEELING A LITTLE SAD,
BUT YOU STILL HAVE NOBLE BLOOD RUNNING IN YOUR VEINS. SINCE IT WAS YOUR DECISION, I GUESS THAT'S FINE
MINAMOTO NO YOSHI-TSUNE, EH?
A FINE NAME!

MOTONARI-SAMA, YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO SHOULD HAVE A SERVANT TO SERVE HIM.
OHHH, I WONDER WHO WOULD BE SUITABLE.
THE PERFECT PERSON FOR THE JOB
WOULD BE ANZU, I THINK.
AH.

I WONDER IF THAT'S A GOOD IDEA,
ANZU HAS ONLY BEEN HERE A YEAR, AND SHE'S NOT FULLY TRAINED...
T-THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE!!
I'M NOT WORTHY TO SERVE A GENJI!!

YOSHITSUNE-DONO, WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS THAT GIRL ALL RIGHT FOR YOU?
EH?
Ahh... well...
I can't decline since I'll be in his care from now on...
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT...

I SEE, THEN THAT SETTLES IT.
ANZU, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOSHITSUNE-DONO'S NEEDS.
YOU CAN SHOW HIM AROUND HIRAI-ZUMI TOMORROW, TOO
.....

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, ANZU!!
A-ANZU?!!
DARN YOU, KICHIJI, THAT WAS UNNEC-ESSARY...
THAT KLUTZ OF A SERVANT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH...
FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU!!
I'LL GET MY REVENGE ON HIM ONE DAY!!
THIS BASTARD IS JUST HARASSING ME...
DAMMIT!

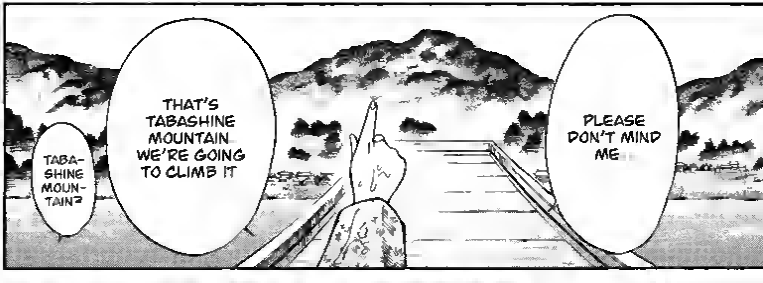
I WONDER WHERE SHE WILL TAKE US,
SHE SAID SHE'D TAKE US AROUND HIRAIZUMI.
AND WHAT SPLENDORS WE'LL SEE NEXT.
ANZU,
YOU CAN'T GUIDE US FROM WAY BACK THERE, COME UP FRONT.
TURN LEFT THERE!!
I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO SHOW US AROUND HIRAIZUMI.
MOUN-TAINS ...?
TURN RIGHT THERE, THEN HOP ONTO A BOAT.
TO WALK IN FRONT OF A NOBLE... I COULD NEVER DO THAT!!
I-I CAN'T!!
HMM?
CROSS THE RIVER AND HEAD UP THE MOUNTAINS.
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW YOU DO THINGS...
I KNOW SHE'S LOOKING OUT FOR ME,

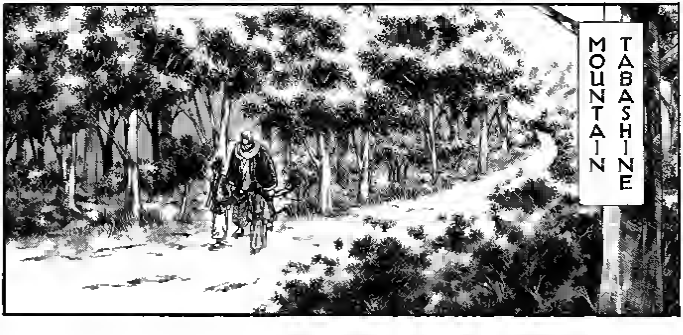
W-WHERE DID ALL THESE HUGE SHIPS COME FROM?! THERE ARE EVEN SONG DYNASTY SHIPS HERE...!!

GOODS ARRIVE ON THE KITAKAMI RIVER FROM MANY PLACES
THIS IS THE HARBOR?!
JUST HOW MANY RESOURCES DOES THIS PROVINCE HAVE?!
BUT THE OCEAN AND RIVERS ARE ALSO USED TO IMPORT GOODS...
NOT ONLY THE LAND ROUTE WHICH WE CAME ON,
THERE'S EVEN MAGNIFICENT MANSIONS BUILT ACROSS THE RIVER OTHER THERE...
It's shaking like crazy
It feels like it's going to break Kinda scary...
Whoa!
PLEASE CROSS THE GANGPLANK THERE AND BOARD THE SHIP.
두두두두
두두두두

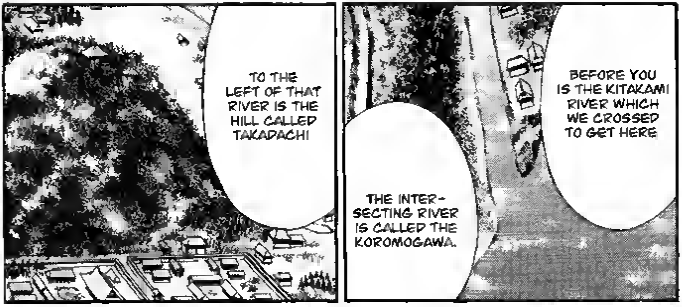
AH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
CAREFUL, IT'S SHAKY.
!!
I-IF YOU TOUCH SOMEONE LIKE ME,
YOU'LL DIRTY YOUR NOBLE HANDS!!
GYAAAAAAAA...
ANZU-SAN!!

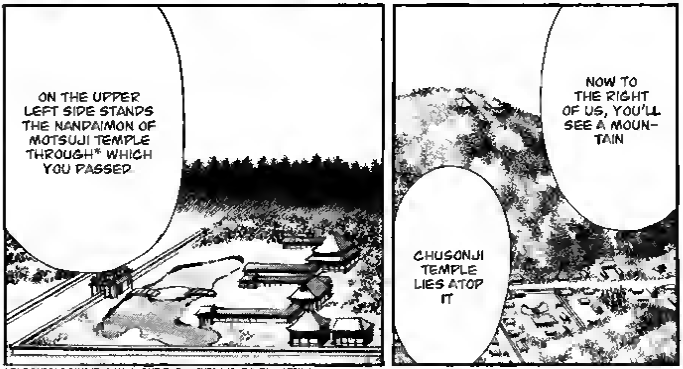
ACHOO!!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'm fine... I just tripped, that's all...
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD LIKE THAT.
MY CLOTHES WILL DRY SOON...


PLEASE DON'T MIND ME
THAT'S TABASHINE MOUNTAIN WE'RE GOING TO CLIMB IT
TABA-SHINE MOUN-TAIN?

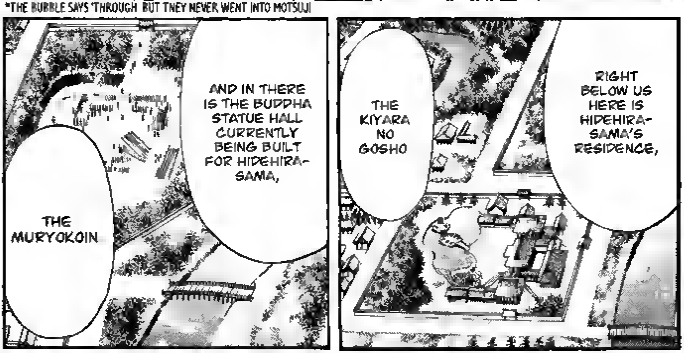

TABASHINE MOUNTAIN

HOLD UP GUYS, OUR GUIDE IS SLOWING DOWN.
ARE WE THERE YET, ANZU-SAN?
HAA
HAA
HAA
I-I'm really sorry...
I'M SURE YOU CAN SEE IT AROUND THERE.
EEK!
SEE WHAT THOUGH ?
Thanks for waiting.
TO... TO START OUT WITH,
HUFF
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD SEE IT AS A WHOLE.
HUFF
AS A WHOLE ?
HUFF
PLEASE LOOK OVER THERE
AH!!
THIS IS THE CITY BUILT BY KIYOHIRA-SAMA, MOTOHIRA-SAMA AND HIDEHIRA-SAMA, THREE GENERATIONS OF THE FUJIWARA HOUSE.
THIS IS A PANORAMIC VIEW OF HIRAIZUMI.


TO THE LEFT OF THAT RIVER IS THE HILL CALLED TAKADACHI
BEFORE YOU IS THE KITAKAMI RIVER WHICH WE CROSSED TO GET HERE
THE INTER-SECTING RIVER IS CALLED THE KOROMOGAWA.

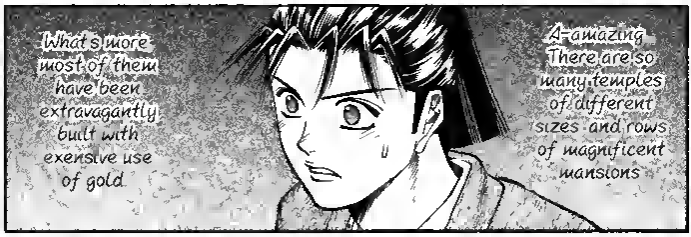

ON THE UPPER LEFT SIDE STANDS THE NANDAIMON OF MOTSUJI TEMPLE THROUGH* WHICH YOU PASSED
NOW TO THE RIGHT OF US, YOU'LL SEE A MOUN-TAIN
CHUSONJI TEMPLE LIES ATOP IT

*THE BUBBLE SAYS 'THROUGH' BUT THEY NEVER WENT INTO MOTSUJI

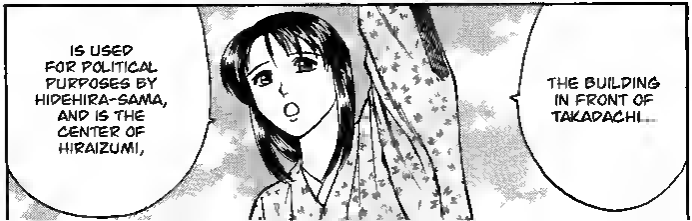

AND IN THERE IS THE BUDDHA STATUE HALL CURRENTLY BEING BUILT FOR HIDEHIRA-SAMA,
THE MURYOKOIN
THE KIYARA NO GOSHO
RIGHT BELOW US HERE IS HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S RESIDENCE,

*LIKE MOST OF THESE TEMPLE SITES, THE MURYOKOIN BURNED TO THE GROUND AND WAS NEVER REBUILT. IT WAS REPORTEDLY A COPY OF THE FAMOUS PHOENIX HALL IN KYOTO, INCLUDING THE LAKE

.....

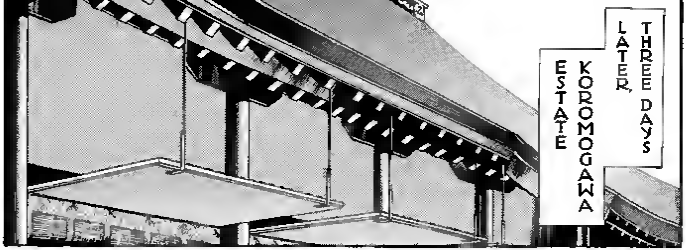

A-amazing. There are so many temples of different sizes and rows of magnificent mansions
What's more, most of them have been extravagantly built with exensive use of gold

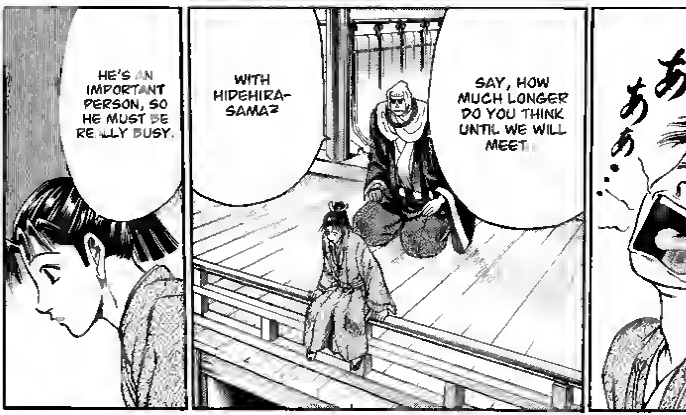
SO THIS IS HIRAIZUMI, THE GOLDEN CITY!!
THE WHOLE CITY GLOWS SO BRIGHTLY WITH GOLD.


IS USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES BY HIDEHIRA-SAMA, AND IS THE CENTER OF HIRAIZUMI,
THE BUILDING IN FRONT OF TAKADACHI...

*T/N: LITERALLY 'HIRAIZUMI HALL' OR 'MANSION'.

So that's the heart of Hiraizumi, Hiraizumi no Tachi...
Where Hidehira-sama takes charge and governs Oshu, huh...
FUJIWARA NO HIDE-HIRA...
TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL LEND HIS STRENGTH IN DEFEATING THE HEIKE,
THAT IS WHY I'M HERE!!
ANZU-SAN, HAVE YOU MET HIDEHIRA-SAMA BEFORE? WHAT IS HE LIKE?
EHH...
NO... NO WAY...!!
MY EYES WOULD GO BLIND IF I EVEN LOOK AT HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S FACE!
I SEE... SO IT'S REALLY TRUE.
HE'S AN AMAZING MAN.
BUT I'LL MEET THIS HIDEHIRA PERSON,
AND MAKE HIM AN ALLY!!

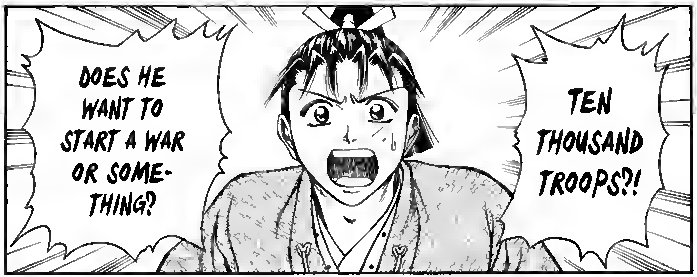

THREE DAYS LATER,
KOROMOGAWA ESTATE


HE'S AN IMPORTANT PERSON, SO HE MUST BE REALLY BUSY.
WITH HIDEHIRA-SAMA?
SAY, HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU THINK UNTIL WE WILL MEET...
あ あ 小

I HEARD A RUMOR BY THE WAY,
OUT WALKING
MORI-SAN, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
A RUMOR?
IT'S RUDE TO KEEP YOU WAITING LIKE THIS!!
BUT, KNOWING THAT THE HEIR OF GENJI CAME SO FAR...
EVEN THE GENJI NAME IS TAKEN LIGHTLY HERE?
HMM
MAYBE,

WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED,
YOU REMEMBER SAVING YOUNG MASTER KUROIWA RIGHT?
AHH...!
HEH!
THE GUY WHO ARGUED WITH THE SATOU BROTHERS FOR SPITTING ON HIM OR SOMETHING
BECAUSE HE ARROGANTLY INSULTED HIDEHIRA,
THE SATOU BROTHERS ALMOST KILLED HIM
THAT KUROIWA TURNED OUT TO BE TROUBLESOME
HE THREW A TANTRUM, WANTING THE BROTHERS BEHEADED
HE EVEN TOLD HIS PARENTS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AND SPREAD WORD OF IT

AND SO, HIS PARENT IS COMING HERE...
FROM ECHIZEN WITH TEN THOUSAND TROOPS.

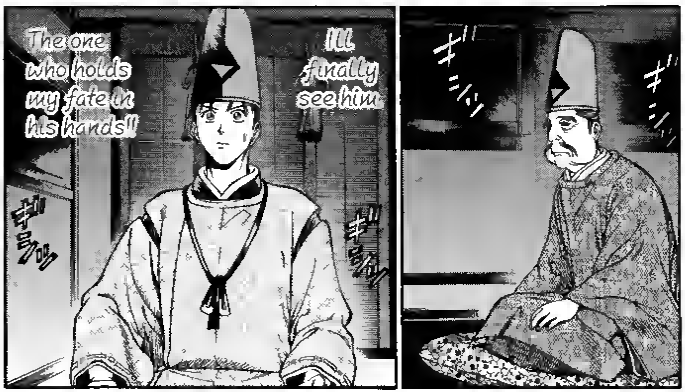

TEN THOUSAND TROOPS?!
DOES HE WANT TO START A WAR OR SOMETHING?

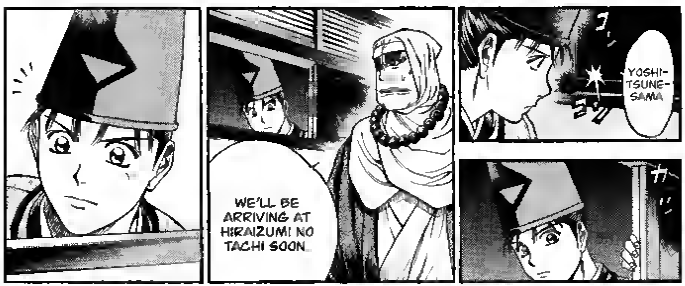
THEY'RE PREPARED TO DIE,
AS LONG AS THEY KILL THE SATOU BROTHERS
THOSE BROTHERS HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY...
FOR KILLING FOREIGNERS IN THEIR TOWN, RIGHT?
THOSE TWO BROTHERS, HMM...
THEY'RE MAKING SURE THOSE TWO HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN.

THOSE TWO WERE SO FRIENDLY...
THE OTHER GUYS SHOULDN'T HAVE SPREAD INSULTS AND LAUGHED...
WELCOME TO OSHU!
A RETAINER SHOULD ALWAYS BEHAVE LIKE ONE...
BUT STILL, THEY WENT TOO FAR.
AND SOME RETAINERS JUST WATCH IS THEIR MASTERS GET SLAPPED, TOO.
Well... If the opponent is a woman or child, then...
Hmmm, mutter...
I FEEL SORRY FOR THOSE TWO...
YOSHI-TSUNE.
HMM ?

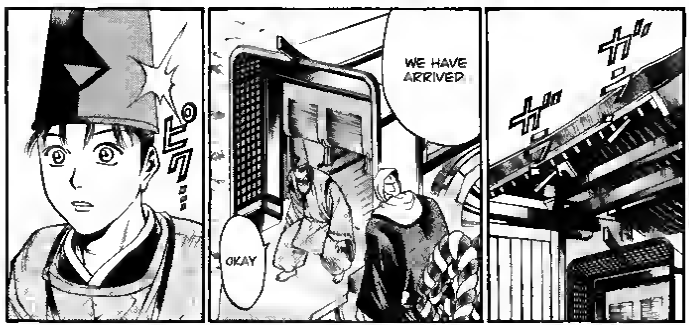
KICHIJI!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GETUP?
IS THAT WARRIOR'S COSTUME,
WITH THE ORI EBASHI* AND HITA-TARE* FOR FUN?
*T/N: WARRIOR'S HEADGEAR AND CLOTHES.
DON'T JOKE AROUND,
I'M FORMERLY A SIXTH RANKED WARRIOR
THIS IS ACTUALLY MY PROPER DRESS.
EH?
KICHIJI, YOU'RE A WARRIOR?
Even though you're a merchant?
NEVER MIND THAT, HURRY UP AND GET READY.
FOR WHAT?

!!!
IT SEEMS HIDEHIRA-SAMA WILL MEET WITH YOU.
ドク・ン
ドク・ン
IT'S HERE!
ドドド

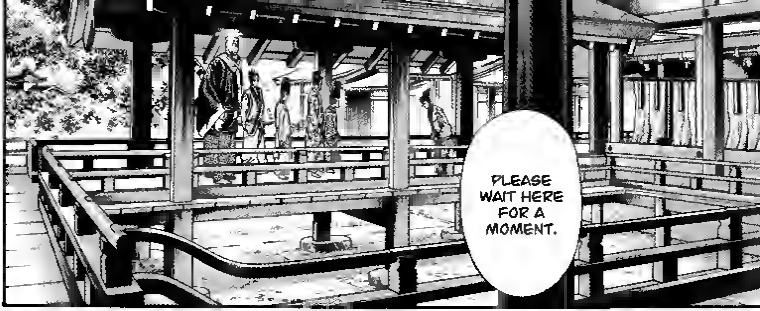

I'll finally see him.
The one who holds my fate in his hands!!
ギシッ
ギシッ
ギシッ
ギシッ


YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA
WE'LL BE ARRIVING AT HIRAIZUMI NO TACHI SOON.
カッ

IT SEEMS LIKE HE HAS A MILITARY BACK-GROUND..!
BASED ON THE ESTATE'S LAYOUT, HE'S NOT SOME DELICATE NOBLE.
TWO MOATS...


ピク!!
WE HAVE ARRIVED
OKAY
ガラ
ガラ

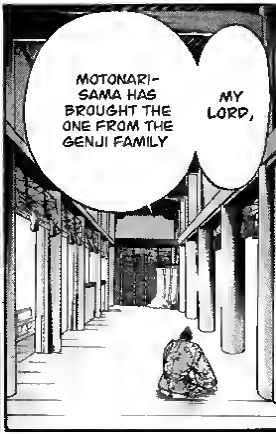
THIS IS HIRAIZUMI NO TACHI!!
Can I even enter a place like this?
WE'RE YOSHITSUNE'S RETAINERS, SO IT SHOULD BE OKAY.
..BUT IT'S TRUE. THIS HALL,
THERE'S A DIGNITY THAT'LL MAKE YOU THINK THAT WAY... THIS PLACE OUTDOES THE IMPERIAL PALACE...


PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT.

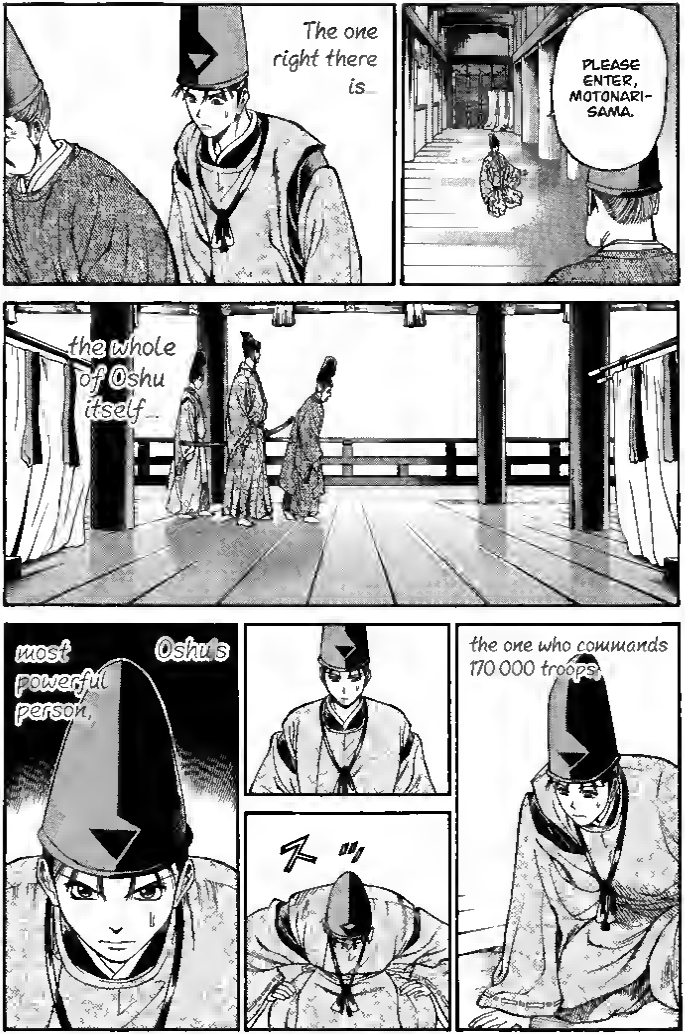
HIDEHIRA-SAMA IS A KIND PERSON
YOSHITSUNE-DONO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO NERVOUS

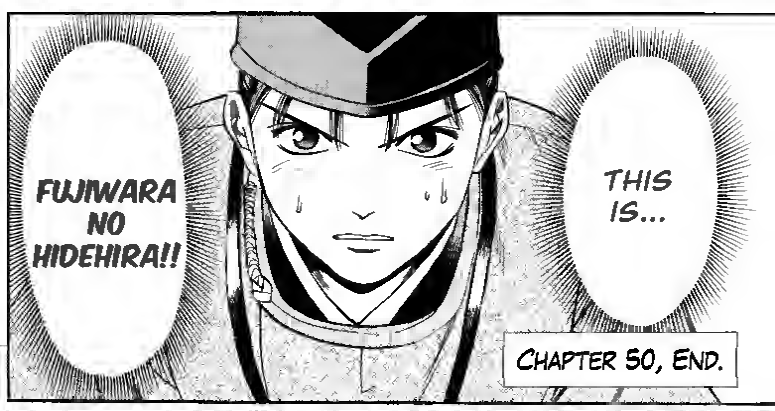
Y-
YES

Fujiwara no Hidehira is beyond that curtain!!


MOTONARI-SAMA HAS BROUGHT THE ONE FROM THE GENJI FAMILY
MY LORD,

USHIWAKA...
FROM NOW ON, PLEASE LIVE ON AS ME,
BEARING THE IDENTITY OF USHIWAKA!
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, HYOUTA,
PLEASE BECOME USHIWAKA-MARU.
I am going to carry on your will now.
Watch over me!!


The one right there is...
PLEASE ENTER, MOTONARI-SAMA.
the whole of Oshu itself...
Oshu's most powerful person,
スッ
the one who commands 170 000 troops.


FUJIWARA NO HIDEHIRA!!
THIS IS...
CHAPTER 50, END.

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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 45

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Redraw p.204-205: Tx93
QC: Ell, choiboy84

Since there might be some confusion: ※ marks the author's note(s) while * are EGS' scanlator notes

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Yoshitsune's meeting with Oshu's Ruler!

THIS IS...
FUJIWARA NO HIDEHIRA!!
SO, YOU ARE THE SON OF YOSHITOMO-DONO.
YES...
HIDEHIRA-DONO, THIS IS THE GENJI I PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED TO YOU.
SHUUTO-DONO, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

WELL DONE,
TO MAKE YOUR WAY HERE.
HE'S LIKE A KIND OLD GRANDPA.
HUH? I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO BE SO... NORMAL.
EH?
AHH, SLOW DOWN.
AND MOTONARI-DONO'S REQUEST,
THROUGH MY FATHER IN LAW, NAGA-NARI-DONO'S ARRANGE-MENTS,
I AM MINA-MOTO NO YOSHI-TSUNE

I AM PRESSED FOR TIME,
AND THERE IS AN URGENT MATTER THAT I MUST DEAL WITH, COULD YOU PLEASE WAIT OVER THERE?
A GENJI TRAVELLING ALL THE WAY HERE TO OSHU,
WAITING FOR THREE DAYS AND THEN TO BE TREATED LIKE THIS!!
WH-?!!
Y-YES SIR
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT...
WELCOMED HERE...
THIS IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT...

WA-PLEASE WAIT!!
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT, KUROIWA-SAMA!!
THAT'S THE GUY WHO BAD-MOUTHED HIDEHIRA-DONO,
AND WAS ALMOST KILLED BY THE SATOU BROTHERS!!
YOU HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED UPON YET!
SUCH DIS-RESPECT!!

"YEAH, TWO CHAPTERS AGO SHOULD HAVE READ "THE HEIR OF ECHIZEN'S KUROIWA."

EARLIER, IN THE CITY OF HIRAIZUMI,
I SUFFERED A GRAVE DISHONOR.
THAT'S WHY HE'S HERE?
WHEN I TRIED A REPRIMAND, WE WERE SUDDENLY DRAWN UPON,
AND FOUR OF MY SERVANTS WERE CUT DOWN
I WAS ALSO INJURED.
AS YOU CAN SEE,
HE EVEN HAD THE GALL TO WEAR THE SAME CLOTHES.
AND THE ONES TO WIELD THOSE SWORDS AGAINST ME WERE NO OTHER THAN...
DAMN...

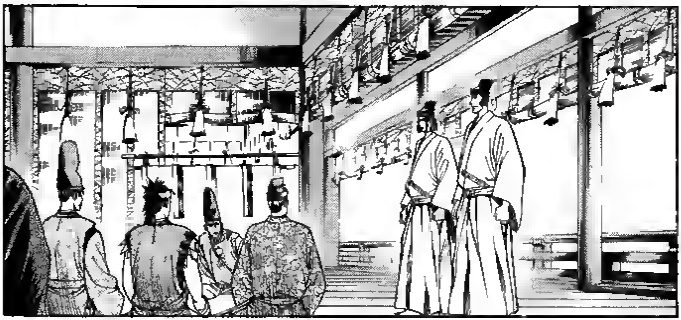
HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S RETAINERS,
THE SATOU BROTHERS!!
WHAT,
TSUGUNOBU AND TADANOBU?
IS THIS TRUE?
YES SIR! I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY,
BUT A QUARREL INVOLVING THE SATOU BROTHERS HAS INDEED BEEN REPORTED
MY FATHER WILL ALSO BE ARRIVING FROM ECHIZEN SOON.

FOR YOUR RETAINERS' MISCONDUCT!!
HIDEHIRA-SAMA, HOW WILL YOU ANSWER...
ガヤガヤ
KUROIWA-DONO HAS CONNECTIONS EVEN WITH THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
IF SHIGETATSU-DONO GETS INVOLVED, THINGS WILL GET COMPLICATED.
APPARENTLY, EVEN IF HIS KID TOOK A WOMAN AGAINST HER WILL,
HE'D JUST LAUGH IT OFF, SAYING, "HE'S JUST SOWING HIS SEEDS." SUCH AN INDULGENT FATHER.
WHAT!? WITH A FATHER LIKE THAT,
THE SATOU BROTHERS' POSITION WILL ONLY GET WORSE!!

SIR, THE SATOU BROTHERS ARE ALREADY WAITING IN THE BACK.
SUMMON THEM FROM THE HOUSE.
YES SIR.
OH?
THEY'RE ALREADY HERE?
HMPF.
SO THE FEAR OF BEING SCOLDED FOR THEIR MISBEHAVIOR HAS STRAIGHTENED THEM OUT
HOW CHILDISH.

YOSHITSUNE-SAMA, WILL THOSE TWO BE OKAY?
I DUNNO...
IT IS DEFINITELY TROUBLESOME THAT THEY KILLED FOUR PEOPLE.
...
IS THEIR ONLY WAY OUT...
TO RUN AWAY?
!?

ポン



WHITE KIMONOS?
EXCUSE US.
Y-YOU TWO, WHAT'S WITH THOSE OUTFITS?
YES, SIR

WE HAVE SAVED YOU SOME OF THE TROUBLE OF...
PUTTING US IN COFFINS.
EH?!!
BURIAL GARMENTS!!
WE ARE WELL PREPARED TO PAY WITH OUR LIVES
FOR TROUBLING HIDEHIRA-SAMA WITH OUR ACTIONS.

T- THEY'RE WILLING TO TAKE THE BLAME,
AND DIE!!
WHAT GREAT RESOLVE!!
AS YOU DESIRE, YOU WILL DIE,
BUT NO SUICIDE FOR YOU!! I WILL BE THE ONE TO TAKE YOUR HEADS!!
T- This is wrong...
YOU CANNOT KILL THOSE TWO!!
THE ONE AT FAULT IS KUROIWA!!
THEIR SWORDS WERE ONLY USED FOR HIDEHIRA-DONO!

SILENCE!!
OOH...
YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO, PLEASE CALM DOWN
YOUR WORDS ARE UNCALLED FOR
But...
Those two are not in the wrong...

I BEG YOUR PARDON,
KUROIWA SHIGE-TATSU-SAMA HAS ARRIVED !!
!!
FATHER !!
……

IT'S OVER. THERE'S NO WAY OUT FOR THE SATOU BROTHERS NOW...
FATHER, IT WAS THEM!
THEY'RE THE ONES!!
It hurt...
It hurt so much...
HUH?

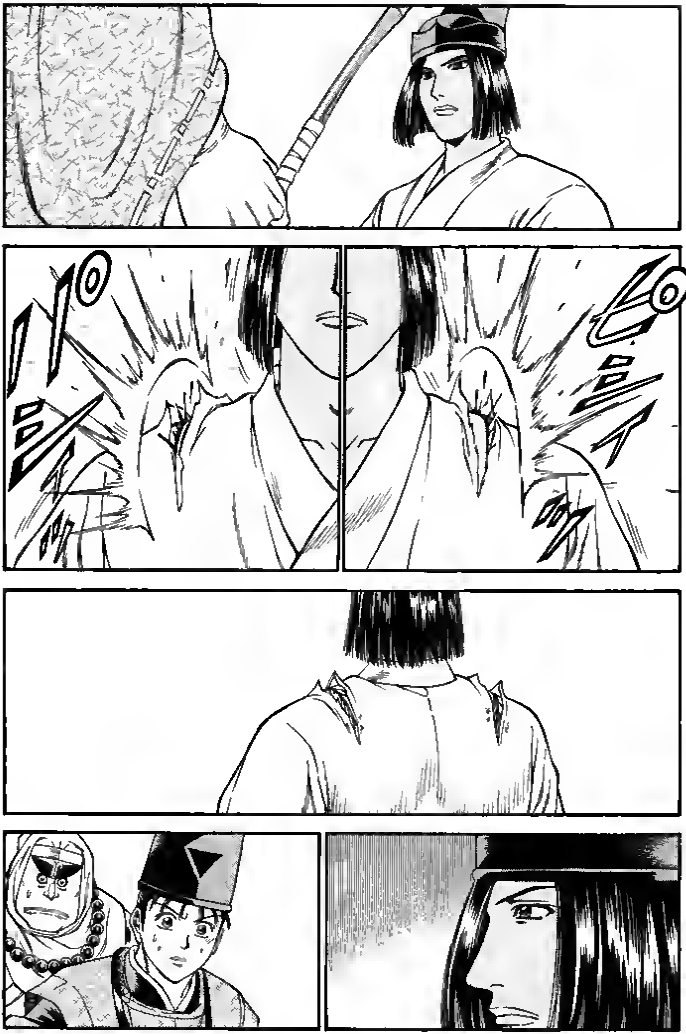
TO CAUSE ME TROUBLE IN FRONT OF HIDEHIRA-DONO!!
YOU STUPID SON!!
STOP, FATHER!!
IT HURTS !!
OW!!
YOU'RE A MISERABLE EXCUSE FOR AN HEIR!!

FOR THE TROUBLE MY SON CAUSED
MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES...
TL: I'M NO EXPERT, BUT I GUESS HIS FIST IS A SHOW OF STRENGTH AND CONFRONTATION. EVEN THOUGH HE IS BOWING, HE IS NOT SUBMISSIVE
MAYBE THE SATOU BROTHERS WILL BE SAVED WITH THIS!
H-HE DID IT!! THE FATHER IS MORE DEPENDABLE THAN I THOUGHT!
EH?
MY SON IS NOT THE ONLY ONE AT FAULT.
HOWEVER, FROM WHAT I HEAR,

I CANNOT SIMPLY LET THIS GO.
HIS SERVANTS WERE SLAIN, AND HE HIMSELF WAS INJURED.
I ASK FOR HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S FAIR JUDGEMENT.
WHAT PUNISH-MENT...
WILL YOU EXACT UPON THEM?
W-WHAT? HITTING HIS SON AS A SHOW OF PUNISHMENT...
WAS ONLY A WAY TO BRING A HEAVIER HAND UPON THE SATOU BROTHERS!
DAMN, ANOTHER SLY OLD DOG!

TSUGUNOBU, TADANOBU
HOW MANY MEN DID YOU KILL BETWEEN YOU?
TWO PEOPLE EACH
A TOTAL OF FOUR MEN.
W-WHAT'S HE DOING?

ヒュン
ヒュン



THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
!?
WHA-?
ARE YOU MOCKING US?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
I-IS THAT THEIR ONLY PUNISH-MENT?

TERUSHIGE-DONO, WHEN YOU WERE CUT,
DID YOU NOT BEAR A SWORD?
...
WHILE BEARING A SWORD, RIGHT?
AND THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULD RUN AWAY...
EH.
I... I DID HAVE MY SWORD, WHAT OF IT?
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU WERE ATTACKED FROM BEHIND...
TO HAVE YOUR BACK CUT IN A SAMURAI BATTLE IS RATHER UNUSUAL.
THESE TWO MEN DO NOT KILL WITHOUT REASON.
TO PREPARE FOR AN UNEXPECTED SITUATION.
AND THE MANSERVANTS PROTECTING YOU MUST ALSO HAVE BEEN SAMURAI... SO YOU CANNOT CLAIM THE EXCUSE OF NOT HAVING ENOUGH TIME...
UH.

PLEASE TELL US, IN DETAIL, THE REASON THOSE TWO HAD TO DRAW THEIR SWORDS.
IF YOU INSIST ON PROVING YOURSELF IN THE RIGHT,
KUH!!
I CAN DO NOTHING FOR YOU IF YOU COMPLAIN OF BEING BURNED BY A FIRE YOU SET YOURSELF.
YOU MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS TO PROVOKE THE SATOU BROTHERS
HE CAN'T POSSIBLY SAY HE WAS BADMOUTHING HIDEHIRA, CAN HE?
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW,
HEE HEE!
THIS IS OVER.
WELL THEN,
Amazing!!
To see that Kuroiwa was wrong from the beginning, without even knowing the reason

HIDEHIRA-DONO PLACES ABSOLUTE TRUST...
IN THE SATOU BROTHERS!!
H-HOW-EVER,
WE CANNOT BE SATISFIED WITH THIS!!
I AM FULLY RESOLVED...
TO RID MYSELF OF THIS EMBAR-RASSMENT,
HIDEHIRA-DONO!!

!!
TEN THOUSAND TROOPS ARE HEADED HERE...
IS HE GOING TO WAR OVER THIS?!
THAT'S FINE, TOO.
WE ARE BOTH MILITARY FAMILIES

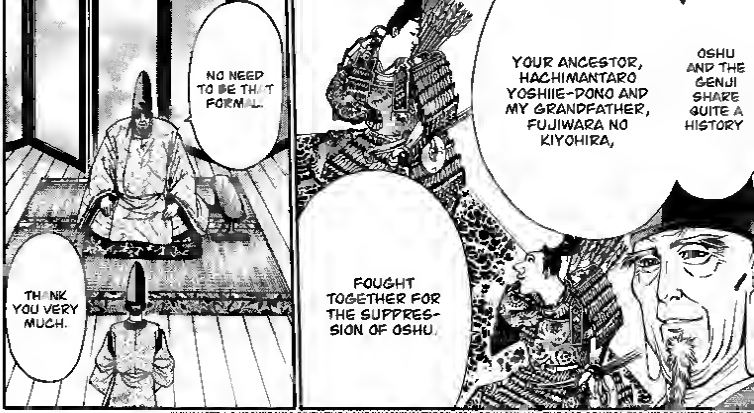
THE 170 THOUSAND CAVALRY OF OSHU...
WILL TAKE YOU ON.

My
My deepest apologies.

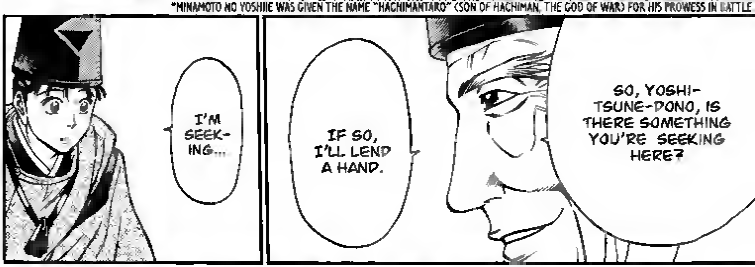
Fujiwara no Hidehira
It seems as though he can move the heavens!
T-The scale is too different
Not just their military forces,
they're simply on completely different levels
IF IT'S HIM,
HE CERTAINLY HAS THE POWER TO STAND AGAINST THE HEIKE.
Let's go
ニヤ

THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
PLEASE PAY IT NO MIND.
I AM FUJIWARA NO HIDEHIRA.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TRULY RESOLVED TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE FROM THE CAPITAL.
IT IS QUITE AN OCCASION FOR A GENJI TO COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
AS THE RULER OF OSHU, I CANNOT BOW TO YOU. MY APOLOGIES.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REACT TO THAT ONE, HIDE-CHAN
PROBABLY WORRYING THAT THEY WOULD BE EATEN OR SOMETHING.
THEY HOLD US IN CONTEMPT AS EZO OR EBISU* AFTER ALL,
Ha Ha Ha!

*T/N: EZO IS AN OLD TERM FOR NON-YAMATO JAPANESE IN NORTHERN JAPAN (I THINK MAINLY REFERRING TO THE AINU) AND EBISU MEANS BARBARIAN. HOKKAIDO TO THE NORTH AND NORTHERNERS IN GENERAL WERE OFTEN CONSIDERED "BARBARIC."


NO NEED TO BE THAT FORMAL.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOUR ANCESTOR, HACHIMANTARO YOSHIIE-DONO AND MY GRANDFATHER, FUJIWARA NO KIYOHIRA,
OSHU AND THE GENJI SHARE QUITE A HISTORY
FOUGHT TOGETHER FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF OSHU.

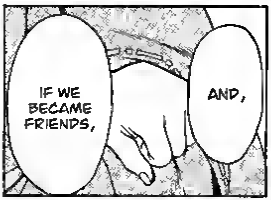
*MINAMOTO NO YOSHIIE WAS GIVEN THE NAME "HACHIMANTARO" (SON OF HACHIMAN, THE GOD OF WAR) FOR HIS PROWESS IN BATTLE.



OHO, WHAT IS IT?
YES, THERE IS.
THAT IS...
Should I say it? Is it too early?
No, there's no deceiving this person.
I need to be completely open!!

I want to be friends with Hidehira-sama.

HAHAHA IT'S FINE
Y-YOU!! THAT'S TOO BLUNT!!

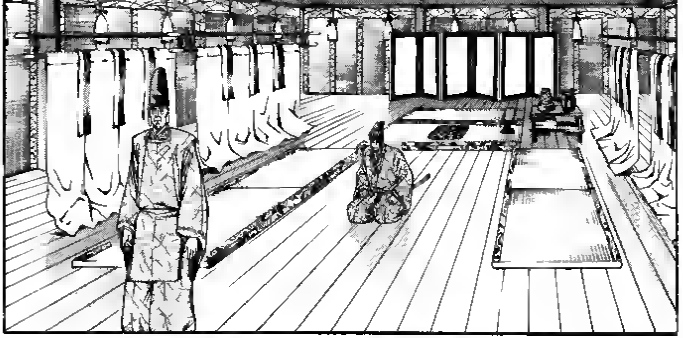

IF WE BECAME FRIENDS,
AND,

HMM?

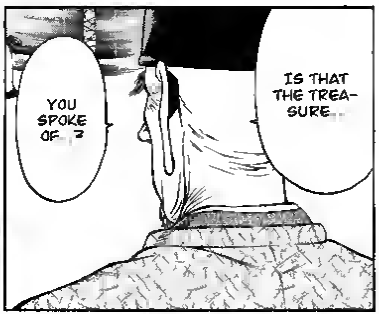
IF YOU ARE SURE ABOUT AN OLD MAN LIKE ME, COME AND SEE ME ANYTIME
YOU CAN RELAX AND LIVE IN PEACE HERE, WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE HEISHI.

PLEASE LEND ME YOUR POWER
TO TAKE DOWN THE HEIKE.
HAH?

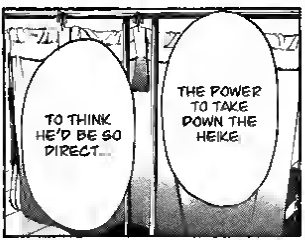
TAKE YOUR TIME AND LIVE IN PEACE.
PAT
TAKE YOUR TIME, OKAY?
Y-
YES.



HE SEEMED TO BE AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSON TO ME.
YES

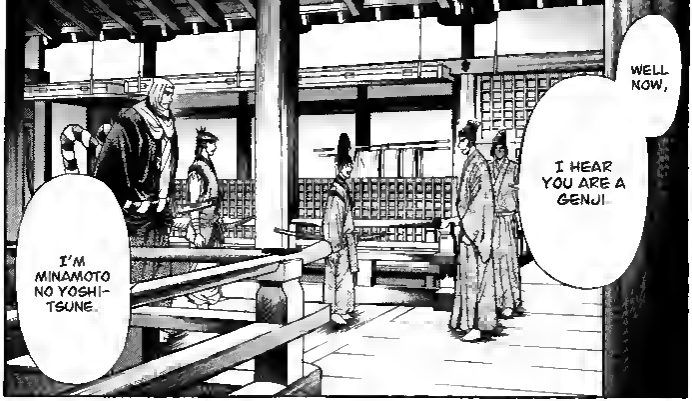

YOU SPOKE OF...?
IS THAT THE TREASURE...

THOSE WERE GOOD EYES.


TO THINK HE'D BE SO DIRECT...
THE POWER TO TAKE DOWN THE HEIKE.

BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW..
if that's just a pebble with a name,
or perhaps adamant.※
※ referring to diamond
"THE GREEK WORD ADAMAS ORIGINALLY REFERRED TO 'THE HARDEST MATERIAL, UNBREAKABLE' AND HAD BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH DIAMOND BY THE TIME THE WORD GOT TO JAPAN
LET'S WAIT AND SEE
AND TAKE OUR TIME
YES, SIRE.

HMM... YEAH, WELL...
HE AVOIDED THE TOPIC.
I'LL TRY MY BEST.
I'LL BE SEEING HIM MORE OFTEN,
I FEEL LIKE WE CAN BE FRIENDS.
I THINK I CAN GET ALONG WITH HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
AH!
SATOU-DONOS!
HE WENT AHEAD TO THE CARRIAGE.
SAY, WHERE IS MOTONARI-DONO?


WELL NOW,
I HEAR YOU ARE A GENJI.
I'M MINAMOTO NO YOSHI-TSUNE.

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY BAD MANNERS IN TAKKOKU, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW
IT'S A LITTLE LATE, BUT I AM SATOU TSUGUNOBU, AND THIS IS MY BROTH-ER, TADANOBU.

I'LL BE STAYING IN HIRAI-ZUMI.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME FROM NOW ON.
THE PLEA-SURE IS MINE.
BUT IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE SAFE.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE IT WAS OVER FOR YOU GUYS.
THANK YOU FOR SPEAK-ING ON OUR BEHALF.
WE WERE SURPRISED AT THE OUTCOME TOO. TO THINK WE'D HAVE TO BORROW CLOTHING TO RETURN HOME...

BUT WEREN'T YOU SCARED?
IF IT'S FOR HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S BENEFIT...
WERE YOU REALLY READY TO DIE?
YES.
HE IS ABSO-LUTELY LOYAL TO HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
THEIR FAMILY MUST NOT BE IN GOOD SHAPE,
AND THAT'S WHY THESE TWO ARE SO RESOLVED TO PROVIDE FOR THEM
YEAH
BUT YOU CAN'T DIE. IF YOU BOTH DIED, YOUR PAR-ENTS WOULD BE DEVASTATED.
AND YOUR FAMILY WOULD BE TROUBLED BY THE LOSS OF YOUR WAGES TOO.
WELL, IT TURNED OUT FINE IN THE END.
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT A CARRIAGE
AH, RIGHT...
ARE YOU WALKING HOME?
YES
MORI-SAN, GIVE ME A HAND WITH THE DOOR
I'LL SEE YOU OFF.
OKAY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
TAKE CARE THEN.
!!!

W-
WHAT?!
BENKE!!
HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
Huh?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
Y-YOUNG MASTERS!!
YOUNG MAG-TERS?
WHEN WE HEARD WHAT HAPPENED, EV-ERYONE CAME HERE FROM SHINOBU,
WILLING TO PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE TO SAVE YOU, JUST IN CASE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 'WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?!'
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

WE WILL NOT WAVER, EVEN AT YOUR WORD!!
YOU YOUNG MASTERS ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN HIDEHIRA-SAMA!!
WE'D JUST NEED TO OBEY HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S DECISION.
DON'T BE SO STUPID.
WHAT?!
MASTER TADA!!
YOUNG MASTERS !!
MASTER TSUGU!
BUT THANK HEAVENS NOTHING HAPPENED!
SO, YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
MOTONARI-DONO, JUST WHO ARE THESE TWO?
W-What is all this...?
HAA ...

THESE TWO ARE THE SONS OF SATOU MOTOHARU-DONO,
THE GOVERNOR OF SHINOBU.
IS THAT A FAMOUS FAMILY?
IT IS SAID THAT FUJIWARA'S OSHU IS STABLE BECAUSE OF THE SATOUS.
A VERY NOBLE FAMILY.
T-To think they are so powerful...
Y-YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA!
WE'LL BE TAKING OUR LEAVE NOW!!

THE SATOUS ARE WELL LIKED IN HIRAIZUMI AS WELL.
AND EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOBILITY TOO, THEY'RE COMPLETE OPPOSITES OF KUROIWA
Such a mistake...
Ussu
AND YOU SAID ALL THOSE RUDE THINGS LIKE NO WAGES TO THEM... THEY PROBABLY RESENT YOU FOR THAT...
AHHH!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!!
IF YOU EVER CAUSE TROUBLE LIKE THIS AGAIN,
DAMN YOU'VE BROUGHT SHAME UPON ME
TO THINK WE'D HAVE TO LEAVE LIKE THIS FROM THE WEST GATE...

I REMEMBER YOU'RE FROM SHINOBU OR SOMETHING...
DAMMIT. I WON'T FORGIVE YOU GUYS.
IF YOU THINK THAT WILL SCARE ME, I'LL SHOW YOU!!
CHAPTER 51: END

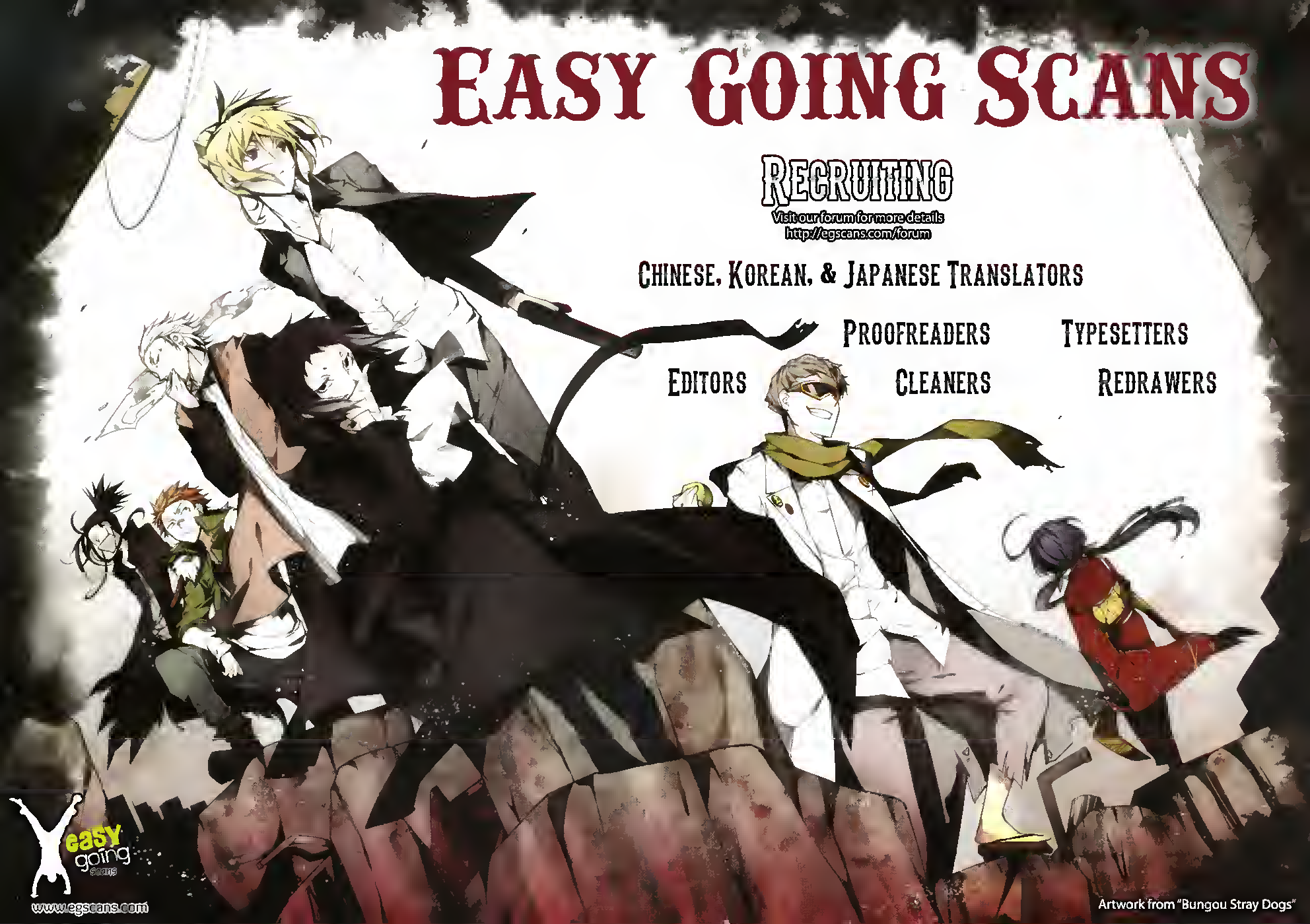
あとがき

いよいよ奥州編のスタートです。平泉の設定は、今の有力な説をかなりふまえてやったので、しっかりしたものになっていると思います。ところが、いきなり第四十八話でろうそくを普通に描いていたりして、時代考証はまだまだゆるいと反省しております。でも、まあ、某局の大河ドラマでも、今の障子が家の中にあったり、乱髪に烏帽子をかぶって鉢巻をしていたりするので、「時代考証部がある所でこれなら、まあ許してもらえるか‥‥というか、許して下さい」という思いで過ごしております。

次巻から「遮那王〜義経」は毎回60ページとなって、今まで単行本は四か月に一冊だったのが、三か月に一冊ペースになります。毎回60ページは大変ですが頑張りますので、これからも応援お願いします!!

「いぬ侍」も、楽しみながらコツコツ描いていきますので、下らないと嫌わないで読んでやって下さい。

2005.4.16　沢田ひろふみ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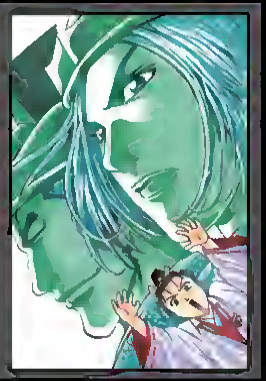

Shana Oh Yoshitsune 52

Credits:
Translator: Mechwarrior
Proofreader: Avonleaspirit
Cleaner: Ell
Typesetter: pepto
Redraw p.6: Tx93
QC: Ell

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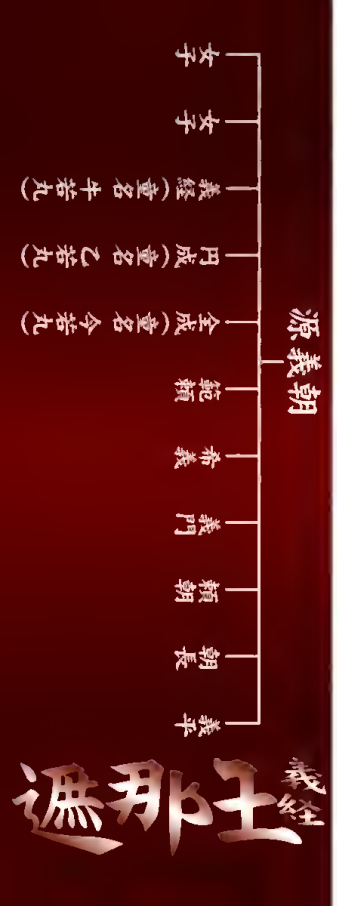


9784063710106
雑誌 41774-10
ISBN4-06-371010-6
C9979 ¥390E (0)
講談社
定価：本体390円(税別)
1929979003906

奥州平泉、藤原秀衡のもとに身を寄せた義経一行は、そこで秀衡に仕える佐藤継信、忠信兄弟に出会う。佐藤兄弟に恨みをもつ者の襲撃計画を知った義経は仲裁を買って出るが……。

沢田ひろふみ作品

遮那王 —義経— 1～14

山賊王 1～7

以下続刊

遮那王 義経

奥州編

沢田ひろふみ

IT'S ENOUGH!!
FOUR PEOPLE ARE DEAD.
BUT THEY STRUCK WITHOUT HESITATION THE MOMENT HIDEHIRA WAS MOCKED.
THOSE TWO WERE COMPOSED WHILE THEY WERE BEING RIDICULED,
THE SATOU BROTHERS!!

The Story So Far:

Hyouta has determined to live on as Ushiwaka himself. Fujiwara Naganari, Ushiwaka's stepfather, realized that Hyouta-as-Ushiwaka was under Kiyomori's surveillance and sent him to Hiraizumi in Oshu. Yoshitsune entered Hiraizumi with Musashibo Benkei, the loyal one, and Ise-Saburo Yoshimori, the brave one, and met the Satou brothers who rescued Yoshitsune from drowning.

The Story So Far, continued:

Yoshitsune watched the Satou brothers instantly slay the four men guarding Kuroiwa's heir, who was slandering their lord, Fujiwara no Hidehira. Yoshitsune's intervention saved Kuroiwa, but Kuroiwa still holds a grudge against the Satou brothers.

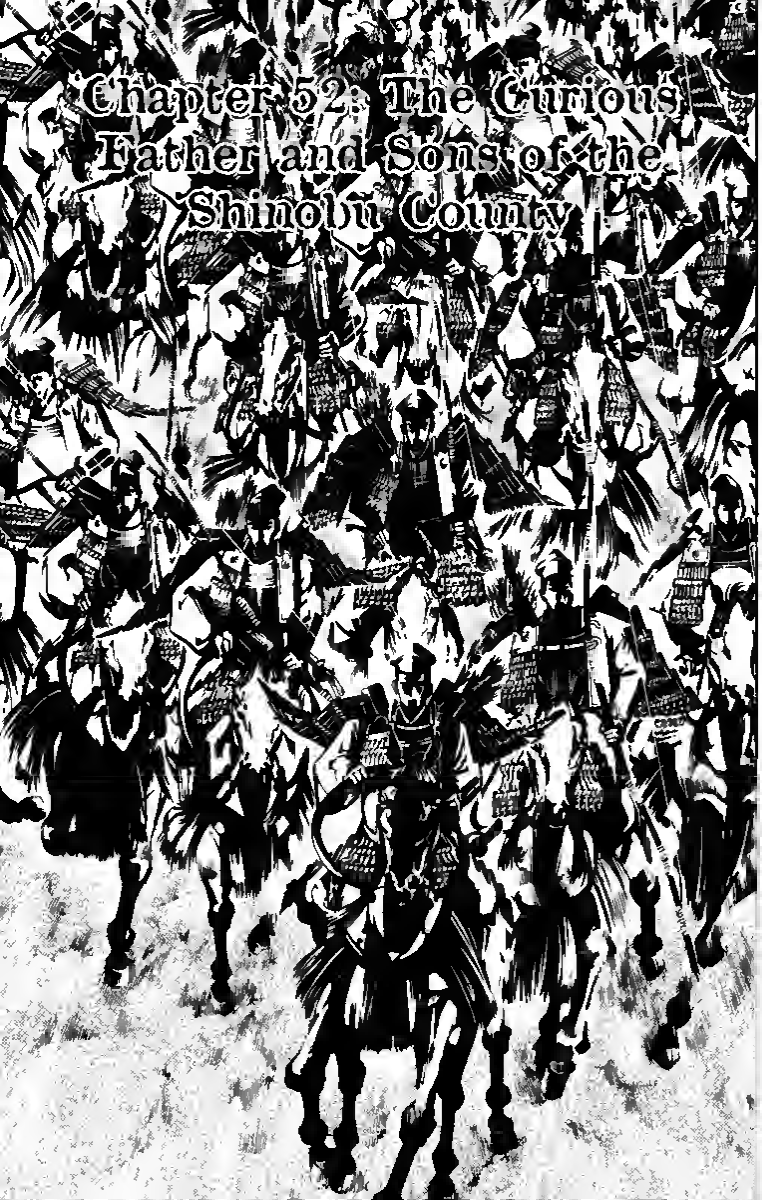
Yoshitsune met with Fujiwara no Hidehira and immediately requested his strength to oppose the Heike. Hidehira skirted the topic in order to assess Yoshitsune's true worth.

Table of Contents

Chapter 52: The curious Father and Sons of the Shinobu-county.

Chapter 53: The Heroes of the Satou Family

Chapter 54: The Elder and Younger brothers.



Chapter 52: The Curious Father and Sons of the Shinobu County

FUJIWARA ESTATE
AHH, EVERYTHING TURNED OUT HIDEHIRA-SAMA IS A GOOD PERSON,
AND NOTHING SERIOUS HAPPENED TO THE SATOU BROTHERS EITHER.
AH, IT'S KASUMI-DONO.
I'LL TAKE MY TIME AND LIVE PEACE-FULLY FOR NOW.
EH?

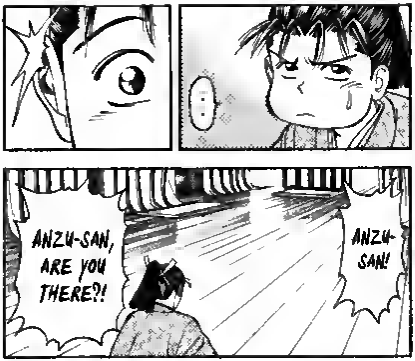
KASUMI-SAN!!
HOW ARE YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?
I don't smell like stink bugs again, right?
THANKS TO KICHIJI'S HELP,
I'M WORKING AT A HOTEL RIGHT NOW.
OH?
THAT'S GREAT!
LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.
I HEARD YOU GOT MIXED UP IN SOME TROUBLE BETWEEN THE SATOU BROTHERS AND THAT KURO-IWA GUY.
EH?

WELL, IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME THAT RUMORS WOULD START FLYING WITH SO MANY DEAD.
HH, YOU HEARD THAT?
WELL, I OVERHEARD KUROIWA HOLDING PRIVATE MEETING...
EVERYTHING IS SETTLED, SO NO MORE TROUBLES!
BUT THAT'S ALL OVER NOW.
A PRIVATE MEETING?
KUROIWA?
I WON'T FORGIVE THEM!!

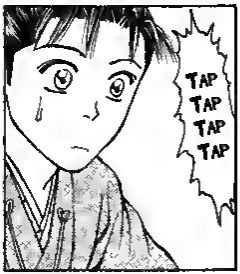
DID YOU SEND WORD HOME?
AS YOU INSTRUCTED, TERUSHIGE-SAMA, THEY ARE ENROUTE WITHOUT YOUR FATHER'S KNOWLEDGE
HIDEHIRA WASN'T TROUBLED IN THE LEAST BY THE RUMORS I SPREAD ABOUT TEN THOUSAND CAVALRY.
SO THEY'LL JUST BE SENT STRAIGHT TO THE SATOU BROTHERS IN SHINOBU COUNTY!!
BUT THE MOST WE CAN MOVE IS TWO HUNDRED CAVALRY...
THAT'S FINE
THE SATOU FAMILY SHOULDN'T HAVE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED CLOSE BY.
TWO HUNDRED IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK.

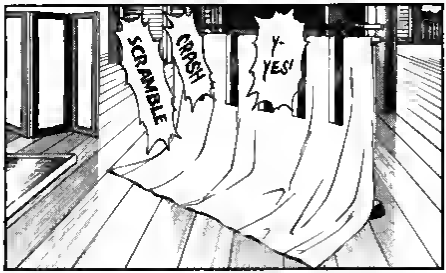
IT SEEMS THE TWO BROTHERS HAVE RETURNED HOME TO SHINOBU.
IN AN ACT OF PENITENCE
THIS IS PERFECT TIMING
THE SATOU BROTHERS AND THEIR ENTIRE FAMILY,
I'LL GET RID OF THEM ALL!!
I'VE BROUGHT YOUR MEAL.
WHO'S THERE?!

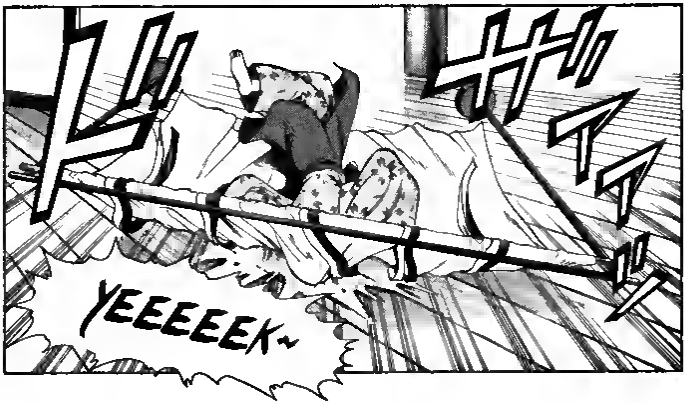
OH, THE SERVANT FINE, CARRY ON
YES.
WHAT? KUROIWA IS ATTACKING THE SATOU BROTHERS' HOME?
THEY'LL BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD!
WE HAVE TO TELL THEM!!
HM?
LET'S GO! MORI-SAN, BENKEI!!!
RIGHT!
KASUMI-SAN, DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW....
WHERE SHINOBU COUNTY IS?


ANZU-SAN, ARE YOU THERE?!
ANZU-SAN!

I CAN'T GO BECAUSE OF WORK.
I DON'T... BUT EVEN IF I DID,


TAP TAP TAP TAP


SCRAMBLE
CRASH
Y-YES!


YEEEEEK~

Did... Did you call for me, sire?
...
ANZU-SAN, DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHINO-BU IS?
YES, IT IS CLOSE TO MY HOMETOWN.
PLEASE GUIDE US, WE NEED TO GO THERE IMMEDIATELY!!
Y-YES, I UNDER-STAND!
IT WILL TAKE US A FEW DAYS,
SO I WILL PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY.

KYAAAAH!!
W-WILL WE BE ALL RIGHT?
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE...
HIIYAH!!
THANK YOU, KASUMI-SAN!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!!
EVEN AFTER COMING TO HIRAIZUMI, HE STILL KEEPS THINKING OF OTHERS...

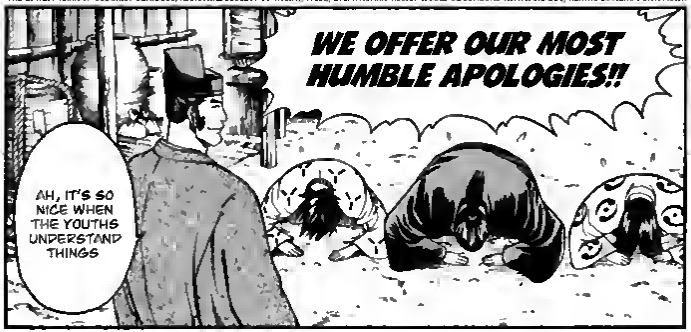
A FEW DAYS LATER
— SHINOBU COUNTY —
WE HAVEN'T BEEN TO THIS MARKET FOR A WHILE
IT'S GOTTEN SO BIG
AHH...

Uhh...
ARE YOU OKAY BROTHER?
GIMME MORE SAKE DAMMIT!!
AHH!!
P-PLEASE FORGIVE US!!
SHUT UP!!
S-SATOU-SAMAS, PLEASE HELP US!!
CAN'T BE HELPED, THEN...
sigh

WHAT'D YOU SAY? HUH?
OI! STOP IT!
AH?
QUIT YOUR POSING!!
UH!

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
S-SHOZOU!
GUAAAAHH!!
Isn't Tsugunobu that guy who lead the bosses
TSUGUNOBU SATOU?
I AM TSUGUNOBU SATOU.
WHAT DID'YA DO THAT FOR, HUH?
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

*THE LOWEST RANK OF BUDDHIST DEMIGODS. ASURA ARE SUBJECT TO WRATH, PRIDE, ETC. A HUMAN 'ASURA' WOULD BE SOMEONE WITH A BIG EGO, ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A FIGHT



TSUGUNOBU-SAMA IS SO MUCH MORE COMPOSED THAN HE WAS BACK THEN.
BUT, TADA-NOBU-SAMA,
EVEN NOW THE NAME TSUGUNOBO THE ASURA IS STILL FEARED
HEY, HEY

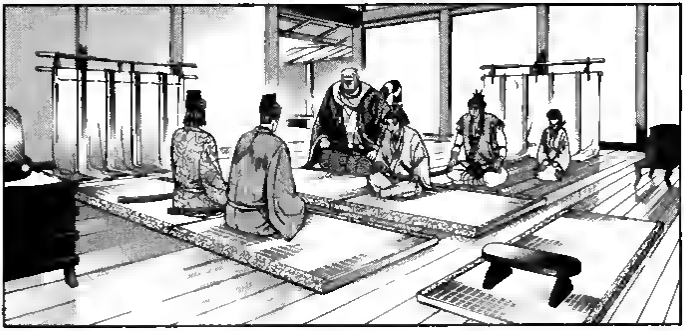
HE ONCE LED ALL THE BAD SEEDS IN THESE PARTS,
SO OUT OF CONTROL, NOT EVEN HIS PARENTS COULD STOP HIM.
HE GLEAMED LIKE A DRAWN SWORD.
AND NOW HE'S BECOME A TACTFUL AND COMPOSED YOUNG MASTER,
AND GAINED THE RESPECT OF EVERYONE IN SHINOBU.
AHH...

HE'S MY PROUD BROTHER.
WHO SURPASSES ME IN EVERY WAY
YOUNG MASTER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
HURRY BACK TO THE ESTATE!!
KITA-
A YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA IS HERE TO SEE YOU!!
EH?
YOSHI-TSUNE SAMA?

WE WILL PUT PRESSURE ON THE SATOS OF SHINOBU COUNTY!
YOU'RE FINALLY HERE! I'VE BEEN WAITING!

YAAAAH!
FORWARD !!

SATOU ESTATE



IF WE COUNT THE DAYS FROM ECHIZEN,
HE SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED AT ECHIGO'S HARBOR BY NOW...
WHAT ?!
THAT KURO-IWA?

THEY CAN BE HERE IN TWO DAYS.
IF THEY LANDED IN ECHIGO AND HURRIED,
TWO HUNDRED CAVALRY
OUR FIRST BATTLE !!
BROTHER, IT'S COMBAT!
TADA-NOBU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BRING US OUR ARMOR!!
OLD MAN KITA!

WE WILL JOIN IN TOO!
ALL RIGHT!
FINALLY, IT'S TIME...
TO TEST MY STRENGTH !!
WAIT, TADANOBU.
WE WILL NOT FIGHT.
EH?
THIS IS KUROIWA'S PERSONAL VENDETTA.
IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF OUR LIVES TO DIE HERE.
SINCE OUR LIVES ARE TO SERVE HIDEHIRA-SAMA,
WE CAN'T LOSE THEM IN A PERSONAL GRUDGE

IF THIS WAS HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S WAR, I'D HAPPILY GIVE MY LIFE
I'D CHARGE IN LIKE A DEMON,
BUT THIS IS DIFFER-ENT.
WHAT?! ARE YOU AFRAID OF BATTLE, BROTHER?!
AND IF THIS BECOMES A BATTLE, MEN WILL BE LOST FIGHTING IN THE LINES.
WE MUST AVOID A FIGHT LIKE THAT!!
R-RIGHT, TO LOSE MEN BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS,
THAT'S JUST STUPID
UGH.

AND WE MUST FIGHT AND DESTROY THEM!!
HOWEVER, THE ENEMY HAS COME TO US,
THEN I'LL GO TALK TO FATHER!
HE WILL TELL US TO FIGHT!!
FATHER, HUH...
IF THAT'S WHAT TAKES TO CONVINCE YOU, THEN GO AHEAD.
YUP, THAT'S AN ELDER SON,
TO CONSIDER IT SO DEEPLY!!
WELL, A CERTAIN SOMEONE ELSE WAS ONLY THINKING OF FIGHTING TOO
HEE HEE HEE
WELL, I THOUGHT THAT GUY WOULD BE EASY TO BEAT
TOO NAIVE!!
THE MASTER HAS RETURNED!!

GEH !!
y-yes, I'll try my best
ANZU-SAN, PLEASE BE MINDFUL DON'T FALL PLEASE

SO THIS IS THE FATHER OF THE SATOU BROTHERS...
HE'S LIKE A BEAR.
GUESTS ?
FATHER, THESE ARE GUESTS.
I'M NOT GIVING YOU THE DEER.
WHY'S EVERYONE GATHERED HERE?
WE ARE DEEPLY MOVED, INDEED
TO HAVE A GENJI COME TO OUR COUNTRYSIDE,
IS TOO MUCH ...
AH.. TO GIVE ME THIS SEAT,
THE HEAD OF SHINOBU COUNTY.
I AM MOTOHARU SATOU,

YOSHITSUNE-SAMA HAS COME HERE TO TELL US SOMETHING URGENT...
KUROIWA, WHO WE QUARRELLED WITH IN HIRAIZUMI, HAS BROUGHT TWO HUNDRED CAVALRY HERE TO ATTACK US
200 CAVALRY?
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE US TO HANDLE THIS?
GO IF YOU WANT.
EH?
WE ARE TO FACE THEM?

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GIVING YOU MEN?
WOULDN'T THAT RISK THE LIVES OF MANY MEN...
HA?
HIS QUARREL IS WITH YOU.
THIS HOUSE WILL NOT LEND YOU A SINGLE MAN.
WIPE YOUR OWN ASSES.
IF YOU CAN'T SETTLE IT, GO AND WASTE YOUR LIVES!!

So uncompromising too uncompromising
Like father, like son, huh
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D GO SO FAR AS TO NOT LEND A SINGLE MAN, BUT I EXPECTED IT
FATHER VALUES HIS MEN, SO HE'D TRY TO AVOID THIS
IF THERE'S NO MEN, THEN THERE'S NO BATTLE
.....

BUT AT THIS RATE, WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THEIR ATTACK
HO... HOW-EVER,
IF THE ENEMIES GETS CLOSER...
WOULDN'T YOUR FATHER MAKE HIS MOVE ANYWAYS?
THAT WON'T HAPPEN
IF WE DON'T SETTLE THINGS HERE, THEN HE WILL JUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY...
FOR RAISING SUCH USELESS CHILDREN, AND THEN TAKE HIS OWN LIFE
HE'S THAT KIND OF PARENT.
WHAT ABOUT APOLOGIZING THEN?
ASK FOR FORGIVE-NESS
UGH...

WE WILL NOT DO THAT!!
DAMN, FATHER AND SONS, ALL SO STUBBORN...
WE DID NOTHING WRONG.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
I WILL GO...
AND STOP KUROIWA.
EH?
ALL BY YOURSELF, TSUGUNOBU-DONO?

EVEN IF NOT THE ELDEST, MAN MUST REMAIN IN THE FAMILY.
IT SHOULD BE ME.
THE ELDEST CAN'T BE THE ONE TO GO IN THIS SITUATION.
APOLOGIES TO HIDEHIRA-SAN!, BUT SINCE THERE'S NO ONE ELSE, I'LL PROTECT MY LAND.
ALL RIGHT!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH?
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT THEN.
IS THAT IT...

I'LL BE THE MEDIATOR!
WHAT?
YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA WILL?
I CANNOT CONCEPE TO THAT
SO IF I GO INSTEAD OF YOU, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID NEEDLESS QUARRELS AND SMOOTH THINGS OUT.
WELL, YOU KNOW, I DID SAVE HIS LIFE FROM TSUGUNOBU-DONO HE OWES ME

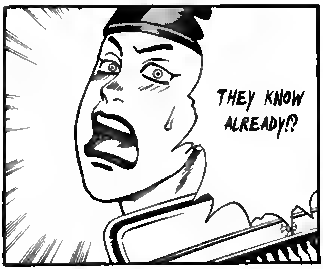
I KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS
THAT'S WHY I'LL TRY MY BEST TO PREVENT THAT.
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT.
IT'S YOUR LIFE THAT'S ON THE LINE, YOSHITSUNE-SAMA.
THEY HAVE 200 CAVALRY. IF YOU FAIL AND RUB HIM THE WRONG WAY...
BUT...
ARE YOU OPPOSING TO SOMETHING A GENJI HAS DECIDED ON!?
ENOUGH!!
IT'S SO LIKE HIM
PHEW... TO THINK THE FIRST TIME HE'D USE THE GENJI'S NAME IS FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS...
UGH...

BELIEVE IN ME...
AND LEAVE IT TO ME!!
.....
HYAH!!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW,
AND BRING BACK GOOD NEWS.

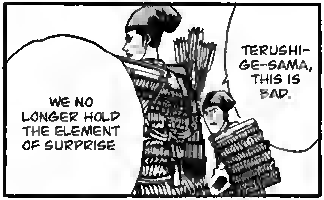
WILL THIS REALLY BE ALL RIGHT?
WE CAN ONLY HOPE FOR THE BEST...
.....
HOURS LATER
WILL THEY REALLY PASS BY HERE?
THEY'D HAVE TO, TO GET TO SHINOBU
THEY ARE HERE!!

!!
STOP!!
HEAR ME OUT!!
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT. KUROIWA-DONO,

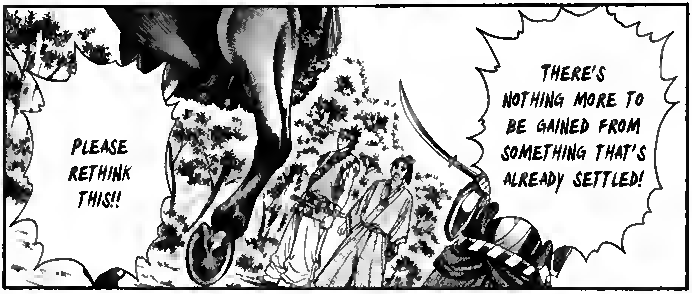
DID YOU FORGET MY FACE!?
He is..
YOU'RE IN MY WAY. MOVE!!
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM FUJIWARA NO YOSHITSUNE.
YO YOU'RE RIGHT
WE DON'T KNOW IF HEIKE WILL FIND OUT THAT WE'RE HERE, SO WE SHOULDN'T USE THE MINAMOTO NAME
I AM MINAMO...
YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA!!
WHAT!?
A REPRESEN-TATIVE!?
AS THE SATOU BROTHERS' REPRESEN-TATIVE!
I HAVE COME TO TALK TO YOU TODAY

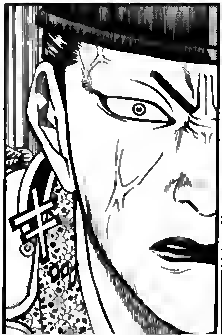

THEY KNOW ALREADY!?

THE SATOUS ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT KUROIWA-DONO'S CAVALRY IS HEADED FOR SHINOBU.


WE NO LONGER HOLD THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE
TERUSHI-GE-SAMA, THIS IS BAD.

PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE AGAINST YOU ARE BEING MADE!!


PLEASE RETHINK THIS!!
THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE GAINED FROM SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY SETTLED!

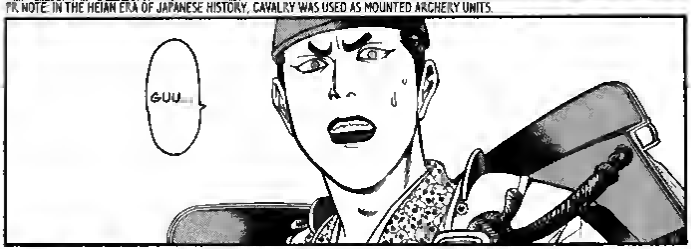


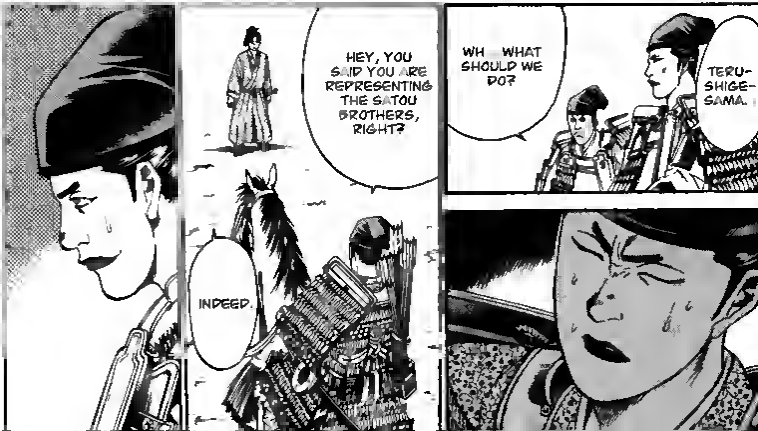
DON'T WASTE THE LIFE...
THAT I SAVED!!

.....

WHAT DID YOU...
QUIET!!
I DON'T RECALL BEING SAVED BY THE LIKES OF YOU!!
IF YOU ATTACK THE SATOUS LIKE THIS, HIDEHIRA-SAMA WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY
THIS BATTLE IS MEANT TO SETTLE A PERSONAL GRUDGE.
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIDEHIRA!!
HOWEVER, THE SATOU FAMILY IS IMPORTANT THEY ARE THE FOUNDATION THAT OSHU FUJIWARA WAS BUILT ON
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THIS IS A PERSONAL OR NOT, IF YOU ATTACK HE WILL NOT STAY QUIET!

TR NOTE: IN THE HEIAN ERA OF JAPANESE HISTORY, CAVALRY WAS USED AS MOUNTED ARCHERY UNITS.





THEN GET ON YOUR KNEES AND APOLOGIZE.
HAVING THEIR REPRESENTATIVE APOLOGIZED WILL BE THE SAME AS IF THEY APOLOGIZED!!
WHAT!?
GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND APOLOGIZE
THEN I MIGHT FORGIVE YOU...
YOU LITTLE...!!
STAY BACK
EH?
Tsugunobu-dono and Tadanobu-dono would definitely not apologize.
Let alone get on their knees...
But...

Every-thing will be over.
As long as I bear it...
IF I JUST LOWER MY HEAD HERE...
THERE WILL NOT BE UNNECES-SARY BLOOD-SHED..
ZBD
SIT

Yo-Yoshi-tsune-sama!
PLEASE!!!

KUH!
AH!
HOW IS IT? DO YOU HATE ME? DO YOU!?
HAVE A TASTE OF MY PAIN!

YOU!!!
YOU BAS-TARD!!
TERU-SHIGE-SAMA!
PROTECT...
EH?
STOP!!
KUROIWA-DONO...

ARE YOU...
SATISFIED WITH THIS?
E-Even... Even when hurt you still choose to sacrifice yourself
And try to protect everyone around you
WAHA HAHAHA HAHA!
WHAT A SPINELESS GUY!!
THAT WAS QUITE ENTERTAIN-ING
SHORTY!

ピク…
OH NO! IF HE MAKES FUN OF YOSHITSUNE-SAMA'S HEIGHT...
ON TOP OF EVERY-THING ELSE, YOSHITSUNE-SAMA WILL...
KAAAAH!
HMM?

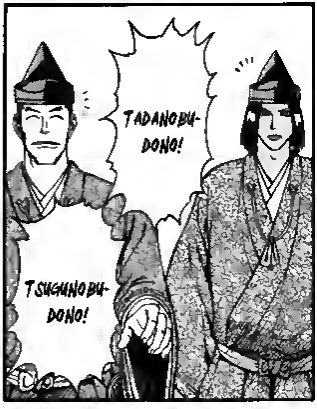
ヘロ
ヒノ
ちゃっ

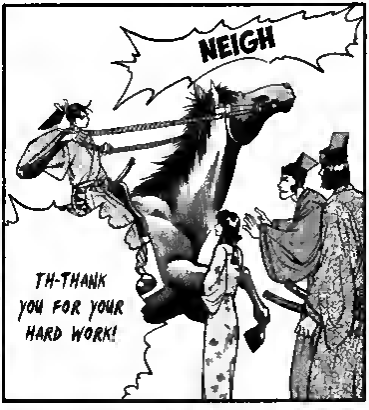
AH!!
DIS-
DISGUST-
ING!!
GAAAAH!!!
QUIT
SCREWING
AROUND!!
I STAYED
QUIET SO
YOU GOT ON
YOUR HIGH
HORSE!? YOU
HORSEFACE!

COME!!
I'LL MAKE YOU SHOW ME...
THE SAME FACE YOU HAD WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT TO GET CUT BY TADANOBU-DONO.
GUUUH --
I'LL HAVE YOU MAKE THAT WETTING-YOURSELF FACE AGAIN.
COME AND GET IT!!

YOU!!!
Ahhhh...
SATOU MANOR
OH!

AT LEAST THEY ARE BACK SAFELY...
IT'S ONE THING LESS TO WORRY ABOUT.
PHEW
THEY'RE BACK!
LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE REALLY IN A HURRY...
THE HORSE MIGHT TRIP, IF THEY RIDE THIS FAST.
HUH?
IS THAT SO?
HA!
I'M SURE THEY JUST WANT US TO KNOW THE GOOD NEWS SOONER...


TADANOBU-DONO!
TSUGUNOBU-DONO!


NEIGH
TH-THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

EH?

GET YOUR ARMOUR!!

TIME FOR BATTLE !!!
...

EEH EH?
CHAPTER 52 END

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